

# Saipan Tribune

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## INSIDE



### Graduation

The Multi-Purpose Center brought together parents and relatives of Garapan Head Start pupils for a graduation ceremony yesterday afternoon, while the San Antonio Head Start children celebrated their exit from school with a graduation at Pacific Island Club's Charlie's Cabaret.

Page 10



### New Resto

The former Johnny's Bar across the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe is now the AJ's Restaurant, a fine dining establishment in a unique beach setting. AJ's Restaurant will be holding its grand opening today, May 21, at 4pm.

Page 16



### 'Guilty'

Spc. Jeremy C. Sivits wept and apologized after receiving the maximum penalty of a year in prison and a bad conduct discharge Wednesday in the first court-martial stemming from abuse of Iraqis at the Abu Ghraib prison.

Page 21

# Olympic expert brought onboard

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO  
REPORTER

An expert in the Olympic Games was awarded \$53,000 to explore the possibility of Guam and the CNMI being certified as a training ground for the upcoming 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

Public information officer Peter Callaghan said Gov. Juan N. Babauta awarded the \$53,000 grant provided by the Office of the Insular Affairs to Bill Tucker, who is reportedly a member of the U.S. Olympic Games committee.

The expert will be in the CNMI and Guam to conduct a study on the potential of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands as training areas when participants rev up for the 2008 summer Olympics.

If certified, the CNMI and Guam stand to benefit from the number of participants joining the Olympic Games in 2008. Countries would be sending

See OLYMPIC on Page 8

## Norton can't make it to WWII anniversary

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO  
REPORTER

Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton has informed the CNMI government that she would not be able to attend the 60th commemoration of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian in June.

In her letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, Norton explained that her schedule would not permit her to attend the June celebration.

She extended the U.S. government's

See NORTON on Page 8



Norton



JAIME VERGARA

### DOING THEIR PART

San Vicente Elementary School 6th graders on a four-day class retreat plant grass at the 13 Fishermen Memorial Monument parking lot Thursday morning as part of a joint effort of the Beach Road Area Management Project of the Division of Environmental Quality, Public Works, Mayor's Office, USDA, Dept. of Natural Resources, Friends of the Pathway, Team Responsible for the Environmental Enhancement of Saipan, and concerned volunteers.

## Controversy hounds MVA appointment anew

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO  
REPORTER

A disgruntled applicant for the managing director slot at the Marianas Visitors Authority asked the MVA board yesterday to explain the basis and criteria used in the selection of Vicky Benavente, insisting that he is more qualified for the job.

In a letter to the MVA board of direc-

tors, James A. Santos said he strongly feels discriminated against and that he wants an explanation from the MVA on the criteria used to select Benavente over him for the post.



Benavente

House Rep. Ray Yumul also backtracked from his support of Benavente, saying he was under the impression at first that she was the most qualified applicant and was selected on the basis of merit. New information he has received, however, prompted him to withdraw his support.

Both Santos and Yumul questioned

See CONTROVERSY on Page 8

## 90-day extension of stay approved

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO  
REPORTER

In another effort to boost the CNMI's tourism sector, Gov. Juan N. Babauta approved the measure that would allow visitors to extend their stay in the Commonwealth for up to 90 days.

Babauta said he is confident that the measure, now Public Law 14-6, would increase the number of tourists in the CNMI.

Also, the governor said the measure would produce economic benefits.

See 90-DAY on Page 8



# Miss Teen CNMI wins National Costume in Antilles beauty tilt

The Northern Marianas once again copped a special award in the recently concluded 2004 Miss Antilles International Beauty Pageant where the CNMI was represented by 2004 Miss Teen CNMI Divana Francine M. Dela Cruz.

Dela Cruz brought home the Best in National Costume Award and landed seventh place in the competition held on May 15 in Rio Chico Ateneo-Paez, Venezuela.

Miss Teen CNMI president Noby Crisostomo escorted the reigning Miss Teen CNMI to the pageant. She is the second candidate sent to the competition to

represent the Northern Marianas.

According to Crisostomo, Dela Cruz did her best in representing the CNMI. She was crowned Miss Teen CNMI on April, which gave her the right to represent the CNMI in the contest. She received also the 2004 Miss Sweetheart, Best in Evening Gown, Best in Sports Wear, and Best in National Costume awards during the Miss Teen CNMI contest last month.

Last year, 2003 Miss Teen CNMI Remylyn Julene Guerrero brought home three major awards from the pageant, including second runner up honors and Best in National Costume. She

also bested other candidates with her evening gown.

Dela Cruz left Saipan on May 10 and arrived the other day from the competition. Before the contest, she went through a personality development training under pageant director Ernie Molina.

The 2004 Miss Antilles International Beauty Pageant featured girls from over 20 islands and countries, including Venezuela, Panama, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Costa Rico, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, and Paraguay. This year, the contest was held in Rio Chico Ateneo-Paez Municipality in the Miranda State of Venezuela. *(Edith G. Alejandro)*

## Man’amko get a taste of running govt

By SHAN SEMAN  
REPORTER

The CNMI featured new government officials yesterday as 31 senior citizens—man’amko—took their seats during the Saipan Man’amko Take Over Day, an activity that was part of celebrations for Mes Man’amko or Elder’s Month.

“This is an overwhelming event,” said Carmen Cabrera, Mes Man’amko planning committee chairwoman. “The man’amko seem very excited and were able to get a feel of what it’s like to have a very busy schedule and handle various issues.”

The take over marked the first time for the man’amko on Saipan. Cabrera said the event has been practiced on Rota and Tinian for the past two to three years, and this year’s event on Saipan marks the first for the island.

Among the highlights was the signing of a bill into law by Joe Torres, who took over as governor. Torres also signed several travel authorizations.

“It was fun and I like it,” he said. “[However] it was hard to sign all those papers because my hand kept shaking.”

The bill he signed became Public Law 14-6, which extends visitors stay in the Commonwealth from 30 days to 90 days.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta was pleased with the occasion and said

it should become an annual event.

“This is an excellent idea,” he said. “We’ve always had Youth Take Over Day, and it’s great to have this event because...they [man’amko] were very happy about it. They were proud in acting out on real issues and they get a taste of facing a busy schedule.

Babauta said the event brings awareness to the man’amko and he was impressed with the job they did.

Office on Aging Director Joseph M. Palacios said the take over was a way for the man’amko to discuss various issues “They get to see what we do,” he said. “They would sometimes wonder the types of things we do, and this is a good opportunity for them to experience it for themselves. It was fun for all of them and was a great success.”

Others who played department heads were Angelica Omar, lieutenant governor; Alejandra Blas, Special Assistant for Administration; Sinchy Kapwich, Attorney General; Jesus Pangelinan, Special Assistant for Management and Budget; Janet Thorne, Director of Office of Personal Management; Feleciana Taisacan, Secretary of Department of Community and Cultural Affairs; Chong Itibus, Director of Office on Aging; Cindy Farnsworth, Executive Director of Arts Council; Maryallen Conrad, Director

of Division of Youth Services; Tino Tebuteb, Director of Division of Sports and Recreation; Susana Santos, Administrator of Nutrition Assistance Program; Basilia Kaipat, Director of Historic Preservation Office; Jesus Teregeyo, Exec. Director of Chamorro and Carolinian Language Commission; Olympia Saralu, Special Assistant for Women’s Affairs; Rosa Castro, Exec. Director of Carolinian Affairs Office; Marcelina Taitano, Special Assistant for Indigenous Affairs; Concepcion Concepcion, Director of Emergency Management Office; Aurora Bartolome, Secretary of Department of Public Health; Sitae Terry, Director of Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; Masako Mongami, Commissioner of Department of Public Safety; Antonio Lizama, Director of Division of Environmental Quality; Mark Chiro, Secretary of Department of Finance; Maria Piteg, Special Assistant for Youth Affairs; Lucia Salas, Public Defender; Pedro Dela Cruz, Mayor of Saipan; Achene Romino, Secretary of Department of Lands and Natural Resources; Antonio Taitano, Administrator of Coastal Resources Management; Mariano Satur, Speaker of 14th NMI House of Representatives; Lorenza Sokau, Secretary of Department of Public Works; and Margarita Mettao, President of 14th NMI Senate.

diabetes  
+green

# CUC to focus on revenue-generating schemes

By **LIBERTY DONES**  
REPORTER

A more stringent and aggressive collection effort will be implemented by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. this year in the face of a possible budget shortfall due to oil price increases and high maintenance and operational costs.

CUC board members instructed the management in yesterday’s meeting to submit a revenue-enhancement package

for the board’s approval as soon as possible.

CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta said her office intends to work on it in two weeks.

CUC board chairman Herman P. Sablan said the management is expected to present a plan on how to generate and save money on all fronts. Among the usual targets are customers with delinquent accounts, including the government and private entities.

He said CUC would also prioritize the settlement of custom-

ers’ pending claims or cases to enhance cash flow.

“This is going to be an all-out campaign to collect and save money,” he said.

Sablan said that CUC requires a huge sum of money if it has to rehabilitate its old main power plant engines.

“Our budget situation is affected greatly by the prices of oil,” said the chairman.

CUC earlier projected that it would overshoot its budget for fuel production by up to \$5

million this year in view of the soaring prices of oil.

CUC acting comptroller Ed Williams has said that CUC only allotted \$31 million for fuel in fiscal year 2004. At the current pace, fuel expense could reach \$35 to \$36 million, he added.

Williams had recommended that CUC should be prepared now to make “major cuts in other areas if it is to operate within its current budget.”

In his report, Williams

noted that generally, financial operations during the first five months of fiscal year 2004 ending in February were considered normal, except for fuel production. Compared with last year’s consumption, he said this year’s expenses for fuel are up by \$1.3 million or 10 percent.

The CUC has also floated a plan to impose a fuel surcharge fee of up to \$0.035 per kilowatt “to recover increases and to pass on decreases in fuel costs.”

This is done through an ad-

justment of the customer’s bill if the price of fuel varies from a specific unit cost, Babauta said.

Generally, the fuel surcharge fee is a charge or credit that is applied to each kilowatt-hour of electricity sold, which is computed each month.

Babauta earlier cited that title 4 of the Commonwealth Code, Section 8143 provides that the CUC board has authority to impose a fuel surcharge fee of up to \$0.035 per kilowatt for all consumers of electricity.

## Agriculture Fair preps on schedule

By **SHAN SEMAN**  
REPORTER

Preparations for the upcoming 25th Anniversary of the Saipan Agriculture Fair is on schedule and will be completed before next weekend’s event.

Division of Agriculture director Donald G. Flores said yesterday that the Civic Center is almost ready.

“Things are looking good,” he said. “Everything is right on schedule and thanks to the assistance of several agencies, everything should be completed well before the event.”

Flores said the renovation of the 4-H Building located at the site would officially be completed today.

“We began renovation on April 9, and the process will be

done [today]. Everything else is already done and only the electrical power is left.”

Flores, who is also the Saipan Agriculture Fair Association president, said electrical power would be connected this morning.

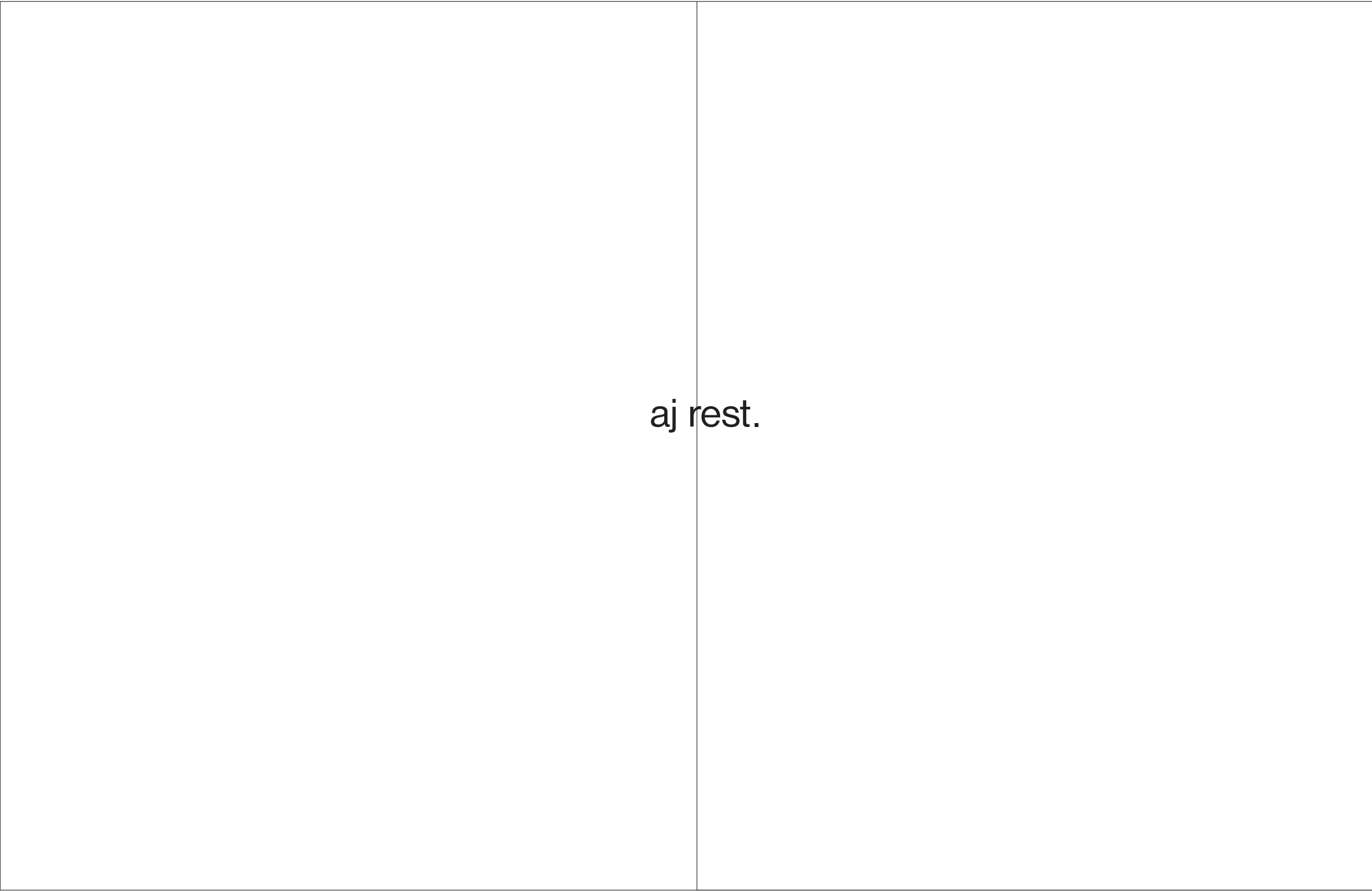
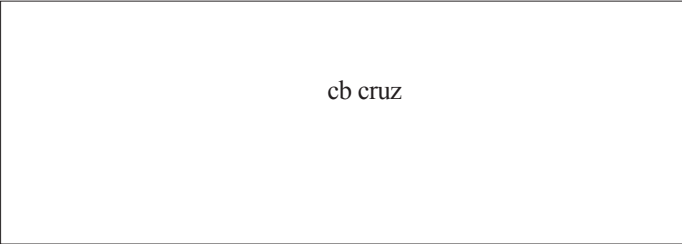
The renovation project cost about \$13,000, all of which was funded by the Department of Land and Natural Resources-Division of Agriculture.

“We reprogrammed funds that were not used, and of course, this was done upon approval of the gov-

ernor,” said Ben Borja of DOA.

The fair will take place from May 28-30, highlighting the celebration of May as Mes Lancheros. The building will be used for the plant division during the fair. Other divisions include the animal and ornaments, with the animal division on the field just east of the building and the ornaments at the Civic Center basketball court.

The fair will also feature a competition of local products and animals.



DPS sets checkpoints Monday

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting Occupant Protection and Child Restraint and Sobriety checkpoints on Monday, May 24.

The first setup will be on 2W Puerto Rico on the south-bound lanes. This operation will start around 8am and will end around 9:15am.

The second setup will be on B/R Chalan Laulau by the New BJ Garden Restaurant on the southbound lanes. This operation will start around 3pm and will be terminated at about 4:15pm.

Each checkpoint conducted will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter and detect and ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdiction's, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, con-

Beach Road closed tomorrow

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section is informing the public that Beach Road Garapan from the Horiguchi Building north to the Garapan Fire Sub-Station II will be closed tomorrow, May 22, for the CNMI Council for Sports and Fitness Mass Walk.

Traffic heading south along Beach Road Garapan by the Bank of Guam traffic signal lights intersection will be routed east toward Happy Market.

Motorists are urged to use the 2W Highway and refrain from using Beach Road Garapan between the hours of 5:30am to 7am.

For more information, contact Sgt. Sylvan M. Rangamar 664-9084/5.

tact Sgt. Joseph Flores at 664-9084 to 86.



ASVAB exams set this weekend

All individuals 17-34 years of age who want to be an Army of One are being urged to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery or ASVAB.

The U.S. Army Reserve Center will be administering the ASVAB on May 21, at 4pm and on May 22 at noon, both to be held at the U.S. Army Reserve Center. Interested people must bring a picture I.D. to process.

If there are any questions call collect (671) 477-7666 and ask for SFC Abadam (cell 671-687-3540) or Sgt. Benavente (cell 671-687-3660).

Life in the Son fundraising set

The single professionals group of Life in the Son Christian Fellowship Saipan is holding a fundraising/garage sale on Saturday, May 22, beginning at 6:30am roadside, Kili Beach, across MHS. Please come.

Red Cross annual membership meeting

The Northern Marianas Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold its annual membership meeting on Thursday, May 27, 2004, at 5:30pm, at the Chapter Office (234-3459) on Airport Road, San Vicente, Saipan. The purpose of the meeting is to hold elections for the voting members of its Board of Directors, review reports, Chapter Directors, and transact other business as it may come before the membership meeting.

LibDay concession forms available

Food concession application forms for the upcoming Liberation Day Festival are now available for pick up at the Arts Council office. For more information, call Angel S. Hocog at 322-9982/3 or George Fitia at 664-2568/9.

Public library celebrates Family Literacy Month

In celebration of Family Literacy Month, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is informing the public that the Children's Librarian will be having an evening story hour on Thursday, May 20, from 6pm-7pm.

Memorial Day meetings set

On May 31, 2004, Memorial Day, the CNMI will be paying tribute to fallen members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Office of the Military/Veterans Affairs would like to remind all concerned and interested that the Memorial Day Committee meetings will be held at its office on Capital Hill, Building #1364, every Wednesday at 10am. All are welcome.

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# AGO wants earlier trial for businessman

By **LIBERTY DONES**  
REPORTER

The Attorney General’s Office yesterday asked the Superior Court to move the trial of businessman Carl David Ecret to an earlier date—from October to August this year—saying the defendant “has enjoyed exceptionally liberal bail conditions.”

Government Chief prosecutor David Hutton and Assistant AG Phillip Tydingco, in a motion, said that, although enforcement authorities have been complying with a court order for random spot checks on Ecret, these mechanisms “fall far short of ensuring the safety of the victim.”

Moreover, they said the focus of the case has been evaluated and determined on the business interests of the defendant rather than the nature, gravity of the offense, and more importantly, the safety of the victim.

“The crime as charged is one of the more serious of all the offenses within the Commonwealth. Aggravated assault and battery, is a crime that carries a

potential 10 years of incarceration,” they said.

Ecret, 61, is set to go on trial by jury on Oct. 20, 2004, on charges that he severely beat up a female companion. Ecret is facing charges of aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

The Prosecutor’s Office said that the victim’s advocate at the AGO has presented “the extreme anguish and pain [of the victim] and as one who fears for her safety at virtually all times.”

“Defendant is allowed to remain free at all hours of the day everyday. The Office of Attorney General opposes these lenient bail conditions,” they said.

The prosecutor’s office said that moving Ecret’s trial to an earlier date, Aug. 30, 2004, would further the interests of justice.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo had imposed a \$25,000-bail for Ecret’s temporary release.

Police accounts said that Ecret and the victim had a minor quarrel which escalated when he sped off on his pickup truck, causing some pebbles to fly and

hit the woman at the vicinity of her father’s residence.

During a reported fight in their house, Ecret allegedly held her in a headlock and punched her back, the side of her body, and face.

As she was struggling to free herself, the businessman allegedly squeezed her neck and continued to punch her. The trader reportedly continued assaulting the woman even when her niece intervened to separate them.

The victim only managed to escape when her sister and brother-in-law arrived in the house.

She reportedly collapsed several times, necessitating that she be rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center.

## Farmers donate crops to CHC Volunteers

Farmers from Saipan again showcased their generosity to the community yesterday, donating locally produced crops to the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers in hopes of assisting the group raise funds for medical needs.

According to Division of Agriculture director Donald G. Flores, about 10-15 farmers took part in the contribution of fruits and vegetables, which would be worth close to \$1,000 if sold.

“Everything went well,” he said. “The farmers again showed their concern to assist the community, and this is their way of contributing. I urge other organizations to do likewise. The community will definitely benefit from any types of donation.”

Flores, who also serves as

the Saipan Agriculture Fair Association president, said the CHC Volunteers would in turn sell the crops, and all proceeds will remain with the group.

“This is the second time we donated to the group, and I am sure the donations will continue in the future. It’s for a very good cause. I believe the money will be used to buy medical equipment. We’re just all happy to be part of it.”

The contribution comes just days after various farmers donated crops to senior citizens at the Man’amko Center.

Flores said the donations are one of the activities in celebration of May as Mes Lancheros—farmer’s month, which was officially declared by Gov. Juan N. Babuata late last month.

*(Shan Seman)*

## Soldiers’ meeting set

Soldiers and spouses or family members of Company E, Detachment 1, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry are being informed that there will be a general meeting on Wednesday, May 26, at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico at 6:30pm.

Among the topics that would be discussed during the meeting are:

- MWR Dinner;
- Volunteers for the Com-

memoration of the 60th Anniversary of WWII;

- Family Readiness Group training in Oahu, Hawaii;
- Commissary Case Lot Sale Information; and
- Major General Tom’s visit in June

Attendance is greatly appreciated. For more information, call FRG leader Cil Blas at 323-4675 (evenings)/322-4363 (daytime) or Bego Odoshi-Camacho at 664-1070.

ERRATUM

The EUCON International School pointed out an error yesterday in a press release that came out about the recent Mathcounts competition in Washington D.C.

The school’s president, Christian Wei, said that student Cheol Min Shin, who was identified as being from the Marianas Baptist Academy, is actually their school’s student.

“The author said, ‘At the Na-

tional Competition, Cheol Min Shin of Marianas Baptist Academy finished the highest of all the CNMI ‘Mathletes.’ which is incorrect. This is because Cheol Min Shin is not with ‘Marianas Baptist Academy.’ He is presently an 8th grade student of EUCON International School,” said Wei.

The story was a press release from Mathcounts organizers.

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# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### Preparing for disaster

In theory, the debate about how Congress should function in the aftermath of a mass terrorist attack that incapacitates hundreds of members ought to be nonpartisan. Everyone on Capitol Hill has an interest in ensuring that both the House of Representatives and the Senate are able to select new or temporary members with great speed in the wake of an event that makes it impossible for either institution to muster a quorum.

In practice, the debate has been bogged down, both by partisan politics and by members' understandable but ill-considered refusal to contemplate the consequences of their own demise. In the nearly three years since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, lawmakers have mostly put off thinking seriously about what would have happened if a fourth plane had hit the Capitol that day, wiping out hundreds of members of Congress and making it impossible for the nation to declare war, allocate funding or do whatever needed to be done in the face of such an emergency. Even when the House finally decided to face the issue a few months ago, members did not take it seriously. They discussed a bill that would permit immediate elections to the House to be held within an impractical 45 days, with candidates nominated within 10 days. This is too short a time to hold meaningful elections across the country, and at the same time too limited a measure, given that it does not take into account the situation of members who might be temporarily incapacitated or quarantined. House leaders allowed two hours for debate on the bill, which was then summarily quashed. Acting as if this were a partisan matter, Republicans united to defeat it.

Last week the Senate subcommittee on the Constitution, civil rights and property rights brought the measure up again. This time, the subcommittee's chairman, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, proposed a constitutional amendment that would make it possible for governors to appoint temporary members of the House, in case of a disaster, as they can now appoint temporary members of the Senate. This measure, similar to one proposed by House Democrats, represents the beginnings of a real debate, if not a final answer. If House members reject the idea of gubernatorial appointments as anti-democratic, perhaps they could appoint designated successors or even run jointly with those successors to give them added legitimacy.

Either way, the Senate and a few responsible House members are right to be thinking along these lines and right to be searching for practical and realistic solutions to what would be both a humanitarian and a constitutional catastrophe. To block debate, as the House Republican majority seems to be trying to do, is immature and irresponsible.

The Washington Post



## ‘Under God,’ and under the Constitution

By KENNETH W. STARR

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Like millions of Americans, Sandy Banning strongly supports the Pledge of Allegiance. As a single mother, she encourages her 9-year-old daughter to participate in this familiar daily ritual at her child's public elementary school in suburban Sacramento, Calif. As Banning sees it, the pledge represents a succinct but powerful statement of the nation's foundational principles and values.

But her daughter's father, Michael Newdow, vehemently disagrees. In his view, the pledge's inclusion of the words "under God" violates the First Amendment's prohibition of the law "respecting an establishment of religion." So he went to court to ask that the offending phrase be removed.

The constitutionality of the pledge, at least in the public school setting, is now in the hands of the U.S. Supreme Court. We will presumably know the court's answer before its summer recess. The case is complicated by issues of "standing"—that is, whether Newdow has the right to sue because child custody proceedings had awarded Banning the final say in the child's educational and religious training. But judging from the arguments in the court in late March, it is more likely that the justices will weigh—and decide—the underlying constitutional issue that divides the mother, a devout Christian, from the father, an ardent atheist.

Remarkably, in our closely divided nation, where the voting in a single state can decide the presidency, the American people have been overwhelmingly of one mind: The pledge is appropriate and unobjectionable. The virtual consensus of our vast representative democracy was reflected in the U.S. Senate's 99-0 vote disagreeing with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' invalidation of the pledge's inclusion of the words "under God."

Consensus, of course, doesn't translate automatically into constitutionality, and one of the glories of our system is the power of the Supreme Court to "say what the law is," in the words of Chief Justice John Marshall. But, in an otherwise divided nation, the nigh-universal acceptance of the pledge—including the addition (in 1954) of the words "under God"—will probably not go entirely unnoticed by the court as it comes to judgment.

Banning—whom I represent—sees the pledge as an important avowal of American values, and I think most Americans agree. As the Cold War was unfolding, Congress added the words "un-

der God" as a more complete and decidedly relevant statement of the nation's political philosophy. That philosophy was famously embodied in the Declaration of Independence and given renewed voice by Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg as he spoke of a new birth of freedom. In contrast to the world view animating the then-Soviet Union, the American political philosophy placed paramount importance on the dignity and worth of the individual, not the state. The individual enjoyed "inalienable rights" because those rights came from "the Creator," not the government.

Under the philosophy of the declaration, the bedrock purpose of government was to secure the rights of individuals. This worldview represented the intellectual justification for separation from Britain and paved the way for the unique American experiment in limiting governmental power over the individual, through separated powers and the Bill of Rights at the federal level and through the preservation of the states. Limit and divide government, the idea went, and better preserve liberty, including the fundamental rights granted by the Creator.

The dilemma comes when nonbelievers (and their children) are confronted with this philosophical statement recognizing God as the foundation of our governmental architecture. What to do when nonbelievers object?

The best answer lies in the protection of the freedom of individual conscience. Respect for the dignity of the individual is embodied in the Supreme Court's landmark case half a century ago protecting individual conscience in the context of flag-salute ceremonies at public schools. The compromise was simple and elegant: The nation gets to have its traditions lifted up in the form of patriotic exercises, but the individual conscience cannot be required to participate.

Compromises are by nature imperfect, and it will rightly be said that schoolchildren will doubtless feel peer pressure to participate in an exercise in which they (or their parents) emphatically disagree. This objection should not be lightly dismissed, but at a constitutional level, the better answer is not to abolish the exercise itself. Instead, a more balanced approach allows the nation to continue honoring its traditions, educating the young in those traditions but also respecting the rights of objectors not to participate in a patriotic exercise that represents a source of unity in a deeply divided nation.

*Starr, a lawyer, former U.S. solicitor general and former independent counsel who investigated the Clintons, is the dean-designate of Pepperdine Law School in Los Angeles.*



# What's right with our legal system

By **MICHAEL P. SHEA**

Special to The Hartford Courant

**E**xposing the ills afflicting our legal system has become a news media staple. The millions of dollars wasted on the Tyco mistrial, backlogs in the courts and the perceived conflicts of interest of Supreme Court justices are just a few of the recent news topics focusing on what's wrong with the legal system. There are many real ills to expose. But there are also signs that our legal system is fair and humane, and these receive far less attention.

One example is the way the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals handles "pro se" cases—cases in which a litigant does not have a lawyer. The 2nd Circuit, which hears appeals from federal trial courts in Connecticut, Vermont and New York, is one of the most influential courts in the country and has been a leader in the development of commercial, securities and international law. It is also the only federal appeals court in the nation that routinely allows pro se litigants to argue their own cases.

Watching these arguments is a lesson in democracy. Three black-robed judges, who have attained some of the loftiest perches in the federal judiciary, peer down from a dais in a Manhattan courtroom to listen to the grievances of ordinary citizens. Many of the pro se litigants who appear before the court lack college education. The bulk of them likely cannot afford to hire lawyers. And all of them are unschooled in the fine points of legal advocacy. But the 2nd Circuit goes out of its way to ensure that such disadvantages do not hinder these litigants' access to justice.

If the litigant who represents herself offers the tiniest grain of a colorable legal argument, the judges of the 2nd Circuit will ferret it out and scrutinize it to ensure that the litigant has been treated fairly. Any lawyer who appears before the court to oppose the pro se litigant is bound to be peppered with questions by the judges, who invariably have studied the record carefully and can be counted on to probe for signs that the trial court overlooked a meritorious claim.

The 2nd Circuit's efforts to guarantee equal access to justice in pro se cases also are apparent in its rulings. The court interprets papers filed by litigants without lawyers generously and excuses technical defects that might prove fatal to a party who was represented by a lawyer. In fact, the court has held that trial judges may not require pro se litigants to adhere to the same strict procedural rules that apply to parties who are represented by counsel, and it routinely reverses the decisions of trial judges who forget this rule. Under the 2nd Circuit's case law, if the papers filed by a litigant without a lawyer contain even the faintest semblance of a recognized legal claim, the trial judge generally must consider the merits of the case and adjust its procedures to ensure that the individual receives a fair hearing.

The extra care taken by the 2nd Circuit to ensure equal access to justice for pro se litigants should serve as a counterpoint to stories about O.J. Simpson's "dream team," the high-priced lawyers hired by Martha Stewart and other news items that feed the widely held view that justice in America is only for the wealthy.

Although many obstacles still clutter the path leading toward the ideal of equal access to justice, one of the most powerful courts in the land is doing its part to remove them. This story might not be as sexy as the tale of the holdout juror in the Tyco case, but it deserves to be told because it says something at least as important about the state of our legal system.

Shea is a lawyer in Hartford, Conn., who has argued appeals in the 2nd Circuit Court, including cases against pro se litigants.

# Economic apathy is no joke

**W**e never tired of this shtick in grade school:

Precocious Brat Number One: "What's the difference between ignorance and apathy?"

Precocious Brat Number Two: "I don't know...and I don't care."

Meanwhile, here we are, confronting a wall of economic apathy in the Commonwealth the size and lethality of Suicide Cliff, and it's even less funny than a worn out joke.

There are sure no smiles to be found in the fact that the Commonwealth's mainstay industry, garment manufacturing, is having to buck the headwinds of global competition. Scores of employees have just been laid off. Nobody who I know is happy with that. The garment companies aren't. The employees aren't. The business community isn't. I'm not. And the people of the Commonwealth...well, hold on; just how do they feel about this latest economic bad news?

Well, I don't know. In fact, I haven't see much reaction at all among the citizens of the Commonwealth as the economy has been bled in front of their very eyes for a number of years now. I mean...does anyone care?

The garment industry is a billion-dollar baby (somewhat less now, actually), that has served as a life-saving counterpart to the fumbled fortunes of the tourism realm. In a typical economy, when the manufacturing industry sheds one dollar in payroll, the economy loses about five dollars. And thus we confront the "multiplier effect," a word that describes all that busy-bee behavior by suppliers, employees, businesses that the employees frequent, businesses that the suppliers frequent, the people paid from all that tax revenue, the businesses who sell stuff to those people, and so on.

This is why economists have thick eyeglasses and squint at little numbers all the time; small changes in business activity snowball into big changes in economies. This is also why being an economist is a horrible and boring life, and it's hard to find dates.

Meanwhile, let's get something straight regarding tourism right now: Tourism levels are less than half, yes, less than half, of what they could have been if the sector hadn't been driven off a cliff by lousy policy. Anybody who grins at me and says that everything is

## Letters to the Editor

*Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.*

# 'It was a business decision'

I am very saddened to learn of the layoff of more than 100 employees in the garment industry. I feel for those employees and their families, who will undoubtedly experience some very difficult times ahead.

As someone who has experienced the hardships of unemployment, I know what they must be going through right now and I really feel for them. It is very painful and frustrating not to be able to provide for yourself and your family, and I'm very sorry for them. I hope they all find good jobs soon.

At the same time, I also feel very sad that the company that implemented the layoffs is being unfairly blamed for a decision I am sure they didn't want to make but was necessary. I believe it is very difficult for employers to have to lay people off, even if it is due to global economic forces beyond their control.

It's not easy letting people go, but businesses sometimes have to make tough decisions in order to survive and ensure the continued employment of their other employees. Unlike governments, which rely on taxes paid, businesses cannot survive without making a profit.

The garment company, L&T in this case, had to make an extremely tough decision based on the smaller profit margins expected as a

# It's not what you know

To Sen. Pete Reyes,

You are very right, senator Reyes; there are a lot of "special treatment" going around. The reason that Mr. Callaghan left the scene of an accident is because he knows he can get away with it. You are assuming that he was DUI. Well 98 percent of the island is assuming that too, including me. The 2 percent left are the Governor and DPS. Mr. Callaghan said that he did nothing wrong, well let me educate him a little bit.

Section 6101 (e) of the CNMI Code says, "The operators of any vehicle involved in all accident with any vehicle or real or personal property that is unattended, shall immediately stop and then and there either locate and notify the operator of the unattended vehicle or the owner or custodian of the unattended property giving the name and address of the operator and the owner of the vehicle involved in the accident with the unattended vehicle or property.

"If the operator, owner or custodian can not be found, then the operator shall leave in a conspicuous place in or upon the damaged unattended vehicle or property, a written notice giving the name and address of the operator and owner involved in the accident and a brief statement of the circumstances and in addition shall within 24 hours forward to the bureau a similar notice, regardless of the amount of damage done to the unattended vehicle or property."

Here is some more.

Section 6101 (g) under the CNMI Code says, "Any person violating a provision of this section (i.e., Section 6101(e)) by failing to stop after being involved in an accident resulting in damage to property shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, be punishable by imprisonment for not more than six month or by fine of not more of \$500.00 or both."

By **ED STEPHENS**

*Ed Stephens, Jr. is an economist and columnist for the Saipan Tribune. "Ed4Saipan@yahoo.com"*



OK, tourism is going to save the CNMI, isn't looking at the same data that I'm looking at.

Besides, hoteliers are bright enough to know that they will be forced, not asked, but forced, to make up any tax shortfall that is caused by any lull in garment activity. We depend on many critical government agencies: PSS, CUC, CHC, and DPS, for example. Who will pay the taxes to fund them if the garment sector hits turbulence? The only folks left are really the hotel owners. As for potential hotel builders, well, they know that anything they build may become hostage to any brewing fiscal crisis here. Would you lay your chips on that kind of table?

But don't take my word for the situation. Just look around you. Are good jobs easy to come by? No. For that matter, are mediocre jobs easy to come by? No again. How about really rotten, horrible jobs that make you want to kick a boonie dog after you get off of work? Heck, even those jobs are scarce, which is lucky for the boonie dogs, at least.

Then what more evidence does anyone need? Things aren't good. They're bad. The only folks who dispute that are (as usual) drawing government checks. But ignore all the hired liars and habitual hustlers, the truth is in front of your eyes. There is, therefore, no need to be ignorant about the economic situation.

And as for apathy, well, it doesn't pay the bills either. Believe me, I've tried. So if the CNMI doesn't change course, it will join Nauru in the economic joke-of-the-decade column. That's a pretty funny one, but it's your children who will have to live with the punch lines.

result of intense global garment industry competition, where some workers are paid less than a dollar per hour in the developing world. Unfortunately, our local garment industry has to compete against so many countries that don't have the standards and aren't subject to the scrutiny that we are. This will only get worse as we move into 2005 and the WTO rules come into effect, thereby reducing our No. 1 tax-generating industry's competitive advantage.

I'm really worried about our employment prospects as our garment industry struggles with the effects of the 2005 WTO rules eliminating garment import quotas. Things could get worse, and I'm afraid there may be more layoffs, possibly even in government, if garment taxes fall even further, as expected.

I hope that our elected leaders will work very hard to help our vulnerable garment industry, instead of unfairly blaming it or ignoring it, as it struggles through this very difficult period, so that layoffs are minimized. We owe it to our local employees.

**Michael Geisinger**

Chalan Piao

Under this section he is busted, but wait Mr. Senator I'm not done yet.

"Section 6104 says, "The director (that means DPS) shall suspend the license, permit or nonresident operating privileges of any person failing to report an accident as provided in this division. Until the report has been filed, the director (DPS) may extend that suspension not to exceed 30 days."

Well as you see Mr. Senator, he can get his license suspended, but I know and you know that that is not going to happen.

Oh! I almost forgot! Mr. Callaghan said that "DPS is not yet finished investigating the May 3 incident."

Please read Section 6105(a) Police Report.

Every department offices who investigate a vehicle accident as to which a report is required by this division or who otherwise prepare a written report as a result of an investigation either at the time of and at the scene of the accident or thereafter by interviewing the participants or witnesses, shall forward a written report of the accident to the bureau within 10 days of the accident.

b) Such written report and the information contained in them are not privileged or confidential.

Well, May 3 to May 20 is more than 10 days, so is DPS doing their job? It should be ready for all the CNMI citizens to read.

Mr. Senator, please keep writing so I can be informed. It's true what you said. If this happen to you or me or any citizen, this matter would be handled differently. I think we should stop the corruption, and it has to start from the top.

**Henry Huet**

DanDan

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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# 'Getting AIDS treatment depends on where you live'

A recent report indicates that getting AIDS/HIV treatment drugs in the states and territories depends on where a patient is located, owing to the limited funding and significant differences in scope and availability of coverage across the country.

This is despite a 9-percent federal funding increase last year for the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, or ADAPs.

In fact, the eighth annual National ADAP Monitoring Report said that, despite the ADAP budget increase between fiscal years 2002 and 2003, the increasing number of people living longer with HIV/AIDS, the high costs of HIV medications, and continuing fiscal pressures at the federal and state levels have led some local ADAPs to implement cost-saving measures such as capping enrollment and reducing the number of HIV medications offered.

The annual monitoring survey reportedly revealed a wide variation in the eligibility criteria and drugs offered by ADAPs in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and associated jurisdictions.

The report, prepared by the Kaiser Family Foundation, the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors and the AIDS Treatment Data Network, said the program serves as "payer of last resort" for prescription medications, meaning that to qualify for the program, individuals must have no other funding source available to them.

ADAPs are a discretionary grant program funded through the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Since ADAPs are not entitlement programs, funding levels are reportedly not conditioned on the number of people who need prescription drugs or the cost of medications.

Jennifer Kates, Director of HIV Policy, Kaiser Family Foundation, said that "ADAPs continue to be in a difficult situation with the need for HIV/AIDS medications exceeding available resources."

She said that, while ADAPs play a critical role in the care system for

people with HIV, they are often forced to make difficult decisions that may limit access to care for some and "what people get often depends on what state they live in."

For instance, the report said that eligibility criteria for ADAPs ranges from 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Level in North Carolina (about \$11,000 a year income) to 500 percent FPL or higher in Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York.

Meantime, the number of drugs on ADAP formularies range from 18 in Colorado to 474 in New York.

Open formularies are reportedly implemented in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Other states have waiting lists and other cost-containment measures, closed enrollment to new clients, and reduced number of drugs offered.

The report said that only 17 states provide the full set of 14 drugs highly recommended by the Public Health Service/Infectious Disease Society of American Guidelines for the prevention

and treatment of opportunistic infections.

Two states—Colorado and Louisiana—do not provide any of these drugs or drugs for other HIV-related conditions, while 33 states provide Fuzeon, the first drug approved by the FDA in a new class of HIV medications.

Statistics showed that in June 2003 alone, more than 85,000 people were served by ADAPs, most of whom were low-income and minority Americans.

Each year, some 136,000 people receive services from ADAPs, representing about 30 percent of people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S.

The majority of ADAP clients are low-income, people of color, male, and uninsured.

The report said that eight in ten (81 percent) have incomes at or below 200 percent of FPL, including about half (49 percent) falling at or below 100 percent of FPL.

The majority are people of color, with African Americans representing a third (33 percent), Hispanics one-quarter (25 percent), and Asian/Pacific

Islanders, Alaskan Native and American Indians combined representing approximately 2 percent.

More than three-quarters (79 percent) of ADAP clients are men and six in 10 were between the ages of 25 and 44.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there are some 850,000 to 950,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S., and more the 380,000 are estimated to be living with AIDS, the most advanced form of HIV disease.

Each year, it estimates that some 40,000 new HIV infections occur in the U.S.

Data used in the report were from June 2003 and FY 2003.

The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit, private operating foundation that provides information and analysis on health care issues to policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the general public.

The foundation is reportedly not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries. (*Liberty Dones*)

## CONTROVERSY

From Page 1

Benavente's educational qualifications, saying separately that they believe that she does not possess the requisite degree.

Benavente, who was MVA's deputy managing director before being named to the top post, was appointed to the position last week.

Santos indicated in his letter that he had received a notice from the MVA informing him that another candidate's qualifications "more closely match" the agency's requirements for the position. It was only through the local papers, however, that he found out about Benavente's selection.

He pointed out that, based on MVA's Job Vacancy Announcement, it was specifically required that one of the minimum qualification requirements for the candidate is graduation from a recognized college or university. Santos said he believes that Benavente does not meet this requirement.

"As you know from the copies of supporting documents I submitted along with my employment application, I have an undergraduate degree in International Trade & Finance. I also attended the Executive Development Institute for Tourism, a month-long intensive workshop at the University of Hawaii specifically geared toward executives working in the tourism and travel industry to which I also know that Mrs. Benavente did not attend. Based on these criteria, I feel I am a more qualified applicant for the position," he said.

Further, Santos said he has a degree in Business Administration, which prepared him to efficiently organize and run a company's human resource and other factors of production, marketing and sales, finance and accounting, and the overall management and operation of a company or organization. For these reasons, Santos said that he feels he is more qualified than Benavente.

Yumul, who had earlier expressed support for Benavente's appoint-

ment, withdraw that support yesterday, saying that, based on new information he has received, he no longer supports her appointment as MVA managing director.

"It has come to my attention that Mrs. Benavente may not have a college degree and that at least one other applicant, economist James Santos of the Commerce Department, holds a master's degree in business administration and has at least five years experience working for MVA," said the congressman.

Yumul, who had previously applied for the MVA managing director position, had been rejected in favor of Jonas Ogren, the previous managing director, who was deemed to be more qualified, in part because of his Ivy League academic background. Ogren graduated from Cornell University, while Yumul received his bachelor's degree from National University in San Diego.

Yumul stressed that his concerns should in no way be interpreted to disparage Benavente, whom he had previously praised for her experience at MVA. He insisted though, that his concern is purely from his desire for MVA to strictly adhere to a merit-based hiring system that is objective, non-political, and entirely consistent with the stated regulations.

"What is at issue here is not Mrs. Benavente but the credibility of an MVA board that may not strictly adhere to its own stated policies that are supposed to be merit-based," he added.

Yumul said the MVA board should hire the most qualified local applicant.

After initially endorsing Benavente's appointment, the congressman received a call from an MVA managing director applicant who contrasted his educational background and experience to that of the current managing director.

Santos also raised questions about MVA's hiring practices, which have long been a concern of Yumul, who now chairs the House Commerce and Tourism Committee.

## OLYMPIC

From Page 1

teams of athletes to compete in different sports divisions, including baseball, basketball, boxing, canoe/kayak, football, rowing, sailing, volleyball, wrestling, among other athletics and outdoor games.

Babauta signed the grant Wednesday to finance the study that would determine if the Marianas has the appropriate training and sporting facilities that can be availed of by the Olympics participants.

Callaghan explained the study would also include hotel accommodations, sports complex, and the whole atmosphere of the territories. Also, the specialist is expected to come up with recommendations and improvements

on how the two islands can be certified as training ground for the athletes.

He pointed out that the CNMI has a new track, an Olympic-size swimming pool, and Rota has golf and tennis facilities. Even Tinian has ample space for outdoor sports, while the entire CNMI is surrounded by water that could be used for water-related sports events.

Callaghan said officials of both Guam and the CNMI are hoping to get the accreditation since being certified as a training ground for Olympic athletes would give both islands an additional boost.

The International Olympic Committee selected Beijing in July 2001 to host the 2008 Olympic Games. As host, the city of Beijing is expected to benefit considerably from the massive investment spending in the

pipeline and the numerous job opportunities it will create.

The Beijing municipal government has already announced an ambitious plan to spend \$20 billion in the next seven years to modernize the city's infrastructure. This translates into an average annual spending of about \$3 billion, which is equivalent to 10 percent of the city's GDP in 2000. The sum will be spent on developing sports facilities, public transportation, and communication networks.

The hosting of the sporting event will also expose China to greater international scrutiny and foster better understanding about the country. Through engaging China closer with the wider world, the Olympic Games will help strengthen the forces of liberalism in the country and hasten the pace of social change.

## NORTON

From Page 1

best wishes, though, as the Commonwealth marks the upcoming event, saying she was pleased to have witnessed the groundbreaking ceremony for the new American Memorial Park's Visitors Center in Jan. 2004.

"As I toured the Memorial Park, I was overwhelmed with the solemn and majestic ways in which it pays tribute to American military personnel who lost their lives in those conflicts. I am confident that the beautiful new Visitor Center will be an important addition to the Park and contribute to the overall appreciation of those who visit this

wonderful memorial," Norton said.

She said the Department of the Interior joins U.S. President Bush in offering the CNMI their best wishes on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the battles of Saipan and Tinian.

"The residents of the CNMI are to be congratulated for holding the celebration to commemorate the historic battles that helped end the war in the Pacific," the Interior secretary said.

The committee handling preparations for the 60th anniversary of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian has been feverishly setting up the different events that would be held in June.

The Office of the Governor has also ordered an adopt-a-mile cleanup activ-

ity for all government agencies.

Also, the committee asked private agencies and businesses to join the government by clearing debris and other unappealing sights along thoroughfares, particularly areas where tourists would pass by.

The committee also announced that Col. Paul Tibbets, who flew the Enola Gay during the war, would be on Saipan to join the CNMI and other war veterans in commemorating the Saipan and Tinian battles 60 years ago.

Tibbets, now 89, would be the special guest of the CNMI during the June 16 ceremonies. He was the pilot that flew the Enola Gay when it dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima—credited for hastily ending World War II.

## 90-DAY

From Page 1

"The administration is especially supportive of this legislation due to the fact that it will allow Japanese citizens the possibility of staying in the CNMI for a period of 90 days, a courtesy that the Japanese government has extended to the CNMI for many years and a courtesy that is finally being reciprocated," the governor explained.

Babauta said the government is aware of the concerns that have been raised by some individuals and agencies about the possibility that some

people might take advantage of the ability to receive extended initial permits to unlawfully seek employment or to commit illegal activities.

He pointed out, though, that this concern is comprehensively addressed in the bill. "This [measure] allows procedural and administrative safeguards to be established that will ensure that the issuance of extended entry permits will not be abused and utilized for unlawful practices."

The Attorney General's Office will be the agency that would grant the extension of the initial entry permits for 90 days.

The measure does not require the At-

torney General's Office to grant a 90-day initial entry permit to all tourists who apply entry into the CNMI. The measure merely permits the AGO the option of extending initial entry permits for a period of 90 days in accordance with the rules and procedures.

The bill, which was authored by Sen. Paul Manglona, stressed that elderly retirees from Japan could be expected to spend the winter season in the CNMI and the current practice of Department of Labor to grant 30-day entry permits to visitors should be amended to extend the duration of stay for the elderly visitors.





# Beach Road’s bald spots get new grass

By **LIBERTY DONES**  
REPORTER

Some 80 graduating students of San Vicente Elementary School spent most of their morning yesterday doing volunteer work by digging and planting grass on barren parking areas along Beach Board.

The group began their work, which is part of the Division of Environmental Quality’s Beach Road Area Management Project or BeachRAMP, at the parking lot of the 13 Fishermen Memorial monument.

The grassing of the barren parking space is one tactic in a series of strategies to stem the rain-borne non-source pollution that flows into the Saipan lagoon.

The SVES students, who were accompanied by their teachers, dug holes on the ground, planted grass, and cordoned off the area for about three months.

“We just want to do something for the environment,” said SVES student Korky Aguon.

SVES teacher Jaime Vergara said the students also planted more grass in plastic propagation planters, to be planted elsewhere at the onset of the rainy season.

“They will look for other barren areas along this road and regenerate the grasses,” he said.

The students received help from the Department of Public Works, which sent its crew and a water buffalo to water the newly transplanted grass. The USDA provided an auger to dig holes for the new grasses.

Tom Camacho of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities represented the Friends of the Pathway in thanking the 6th graders and the supporting agencies for the day’s effort.

Meantime, during yesterday’s grass planting, DEQ recognized the Northern Marianas College-CREES for starting the Community Garden component of BeachRAMP.

NMC-CREES also received a \$400 check from TREES to restart the 4-H Club at SVES.

Present in yesterday’s check presentation were TREES board vice-chair Ken Kramer, members Patrick Calvo, Ivan Groom, MVA’s Martin Duenas, CREES’ Craig Smith and USDA’s Jocelyn Bamba.

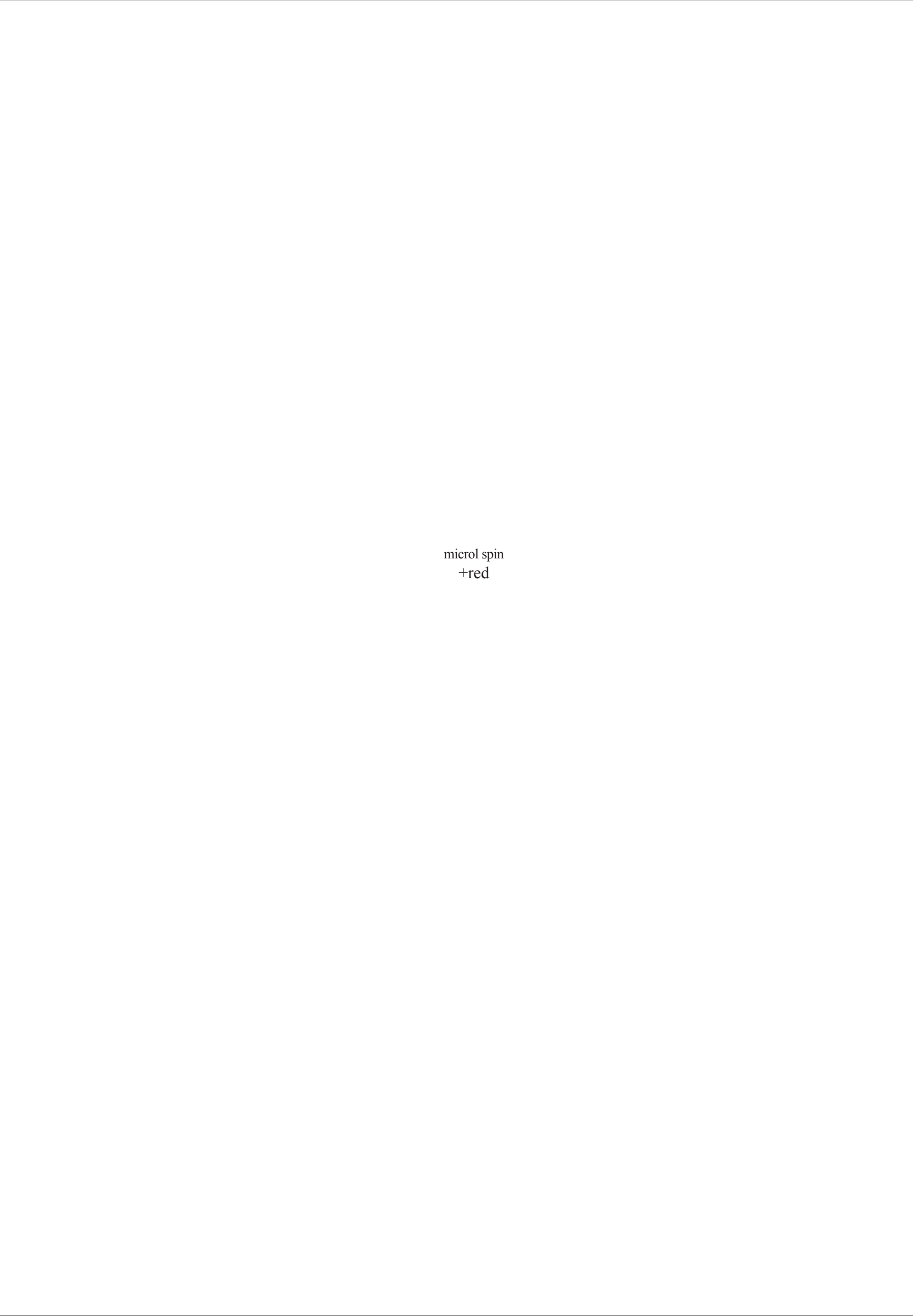
Vergara said that SVES 6th graders began their retreat by doing a cleanup of their adopted beach, Lau-Lau Bay, on Monday.

SVES teachers accompanying the students were Jaime Tudela, Sherwin Mendiola, Rose Adams, Maria Teresa Camacho, David Cooper, and Vergara.

SVES indicated that the grass-planting activity would become a twice-a-year activity for the senior class of SVES.

BeachRAMP is a DEQ project jointly supported by the Department of Public Works, the Mayor’s Office, Friends of the Pathway, Team Responsible for the Environmental Enhancement of Saipan or TREES , and re-

lated agencies such as USDA, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. RAMP is contracted to Northern Islands Co., with its president, Ivan Groom, as lead coordinator, and with primary technical assistance from Patrick Calvo of Calvo Development Corp.







CASSIE DLG. FEJERAN

Vincent Ada, an instructor at the Garapan Head Start, line up the children just before the start of the graduation ceremonies yesterday.

# Garapan Head Start ends school year

By CASSIE FEJERAN  
REPORTER

The Multi-Purpose Center brought together parents and relatives of Garapan Head Start pupils for a graduation ceremony held yesterday afternoon.

Being the stars of the show, all 92 children occupied not the bleachers but the stage itself, with Garapan Head Start Site coordinator Tony Taylor opening the ceremonies by welcoming them to the stage. Teachers helped lead the children to their seats.

With the eyes of nervous parents and relatives on them, the children filled the hall with their angelic voices as they sang to the U.S. and the CNMI's national



CASSIE DLG. FEJERAN

Despite the excitement of finally graduating from the Head Start program, these students seem to be getting restless, as they wait for the ceremonies to end.



Garapan Head Start instructor Laura Manibusan pose with some of her students just before the start of the graduation ceremonies held yesterday at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CASSIE DLG. FEJERAN



CASSIE DLG. FEJERAN

Garapan Head Start students take their seats on the stage signaling the start of graduation ceremonies.

anthems. The kids took turns at the microphone, while parents watched with anticipation.

Rabby Syed, the Head Start Policy Council representative of Garapan, conveyed his appreciation to the teachers and parents for supporting their children throughout the year.

He was echoed by Central Parent Involvement Committee president Jacinta Kaipat, who was the guest speaker at the ceremony.

Sharing more of their talents, Manny Orgato led the children with a welcoming song We Are Glad—a song that has been with Head Start for about 20 years.

Following the song, the school's classroom teachers, including Vincent Ada, Laura Manibusan, and Ashlee Tenorio, presented certificates to the 92 graduates.

Before going home, the children performed a surprise number for their parents. Sharing with their parents what they have learned throughout their times at Head Start, the children sang their ABC's and days of the week. As Taylor puts it, "their basic skills presentation."

"The kids have really done their best this year and they're really excited to go off to what we call big people school," said Taylor.



# ...as well as San Antonio Head Start

By CASSIE FEJERAN  
REPORTER

The San Antonio Head Start children celebrated their exit from school yesterday morning with a graduation ceremony at Pacific Island Club's Charlie's Cabaret.

San Antonio's Central Parent Involvement Committee president Mary Jane Fleming kicked off the ceremonies with a brief speech, where she praised everyone for a successful year.

In a unique turn of events,

TSA acting training coordinator Fausia Dela Cruz, who was at hand to see her daughter graduate, also gave a brief presentation to the parents, giving them useful information about the checkpoint at the airport, and tips to ensure their safety while they travel.

"TSA is very involved with the community. They go out to each school and do presentations for the students and the teachers," Dela Cruz said.

With just enough time to prepare, the children went up

the stage to receive their certificates. Head Start instructors Erlyne Elewel, Rita Carreon, Jessica DL. Guerrero, and Maria Mendoza handed out the certificates to the 40 kids.

The children also performed a dance number called I Think We're Alone Now, prompting excited parents to crowd the front of the stage, taking pictures.

Parents were also presented with certificates in recognition of their hard work and commitment to the school.

The pupils perform a dance number after receiving their certificates.

CASSIE FEJERAN



Fausia Dela Cruz, left, poses with her family after daughter Cornessa Dela Cruz, center, graduated from the San Antonio Head Start.

CASSIE FEJERAN



The graduates of San Antonio Head Start wait for the ceremonies to start.

CASSIE FEJERAN



CASSIE FEJERAN

The graduates of San Antonio Head Start stand in preparation for their Ceremony Song.

lottery  
cyan

verizon  
cmyk



# Saipan music groups to hold concerts

Two musical groups, one a band and the other products of a musical school on Saipan, will be holding their respective concerts this month and next.

On Monday, May 24, the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band will be holding their 10th Annual Spring Concert. This concert will be held at the Saipan Multi-Purpose Building starting at 7pm. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors.

The Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band is conducted by Will DeWitt who was recently inducted into “Who’s Who In America.”

The concert will feature a variety of music, including music from the 50’s, 60’s & 70’s, movie & Broadway themes, woodwind and brass instrumentals, classical, and others.

For more information contact Will DeWitt at 664-4000 or Philip Van Lanen at 234-6323.

On June 5, a Saturday, the Do Re Mi School of Music will be holding its 16th Annual Summer Violin Recital, presented by maestro Ao Zhang. There will be a Soloist, Duet and Group Performances.

Among the music that would be performed are concertos and sonatas by Mozart, Bach, Vivaldi, Accolay, Seitz, Beethoven, Handel, Brahms, and many more masterpieces.

The recital would be held at the Place: Hyatt Regency Saipan- Sandcastle on June 5, from 10am to noon. A lunch buffet will follow.

General entrance tickets cost \$5. For those who would like to join the buffet that follows, it will cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for children (under 11 years). Lunch reservations must be made by June 1.

# Multinational naval exercise starts in Fiji

SUVA, Fiji (Radio Fiji/PIR)—Operation Kurukuru, a multinational naval exercise aimed at improving the efficiency of regional naval forces, commenced this morning.

Head of the Fiji navy commander Viliame Naupoto told attending naval officers from Tonga, Australia, France and Fiji that there was a need for improved and efficient protection of regional waters in light of increased world terrorism.

Commander Naupoto says, despite limited finance and resources, regional countries working together could ensure better protection at sea.

“We have a limited amount of money that is given to us to do the job, we have only a few assets or platforms to do the work, outnumbered by the people we look after,” says Naupoto. “We have huge Exclusive Economic Zones compared to our land area so we have to be efficient.”

# Papua drags feet on 2002 theft of retirement funds

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—Action against people mentioned in the National Provident Fund (now NAS-FUND) inquiry report for the alleged theft of more than K200 million (US\$61.9 million) from members and their dependants appears to have stalled.

On the 18-month anniversary after Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare tabled in Parliament the 1,174-page report compiled by retired Australian judge Justice Tos Barnett on November 20, 2002, only the Internal Revenue Commission (IRC) has confirmed taking action against the people referred.

Ray Barredo, Philip Eludeme, Gary Jewiss and Jimmy Maladina were named in Parliament to be referred to the IRC.

Chief Ombudsman Illa Geno said of the 31 people referred only five people were still subject to the Leadership Code.

Mr. Geno said on the first anniversary of the tabling of the report, he had hoped the commission would have been able to announce its position regarding the five cases.

“Unfortunately, continuing resource constraints, combined with other competing priorities, have meant that the Ombudsman Commission has not been able to meet that milestone,” Mr. Geno said.

President of the PNG Institute of Accountants Tim Vatnaber said a report compiled by its statistics committee is before the Accountants Registration Board, which will decide on the recommendations. But Police Commissioner Sam Inguba, PNG Law Society chairwoman of the statutory committee royale Thompson, Bank of Papua New Guinea Governor Wilson Kamit, controller of foreign exchange Clement Bran and Valuer-General Saleng Hosa have yet to reply to letters sent by the Post-Courier on May 11 and 12 asking to detail any action (or lack of it) that has been taken against those referred by Parliament.

## CAMPUS BULLETIN

### Last day today for MHS book fair

The Marianas High School’s National Honor Society Chapter is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair that will run until today. The fair is being held at the MHS campus in room C103 (Distance Learning Room) during break time (10:05-10:30am), lunchtime (12:10-1:10pm) and after school (2:45-3:30pm).

Books from all reading levels are on sale. Cash and major credit cards are accepted (Discover, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express).

### NMC summer registration set

Registration for the Northern Marianas College’s Summer 2004 First and Regular Season classes continue through Monday, May 24. No late fee will be charged.

Second session registration ends on July 2, with late registration ending on July 7. For more information about this matter, call Doris Aldan-Atalig at 234-5498, Ext. 1524.

Individuals wanting to take the English Placement test should call Thom Colton at 234-5498, Ext. 2000. Individuals wanting to take a Math Placement test should contact Glenn Keaton at Ext. 1200.

### SSHS Cultural Day set

The Saipan Southern High School is inviting the public to its 2nd Annual Cultural Day to experience the European Gala on Saturday, May 22, 9am to 3pm, at the SSHS campus.

All the booths and exhibits will depict the Spanish and German era in the CNMI.

“Be ready to be taken back in time! Bring the entire family, tell your neighbors, tell everyone!” the school said in a statement. “You don’t want to miss this one!”

### DES Cultural Day set

The Dandan Elementary School will be holding its Cultural Day on Saturday, May 22, from 8:30am to 3pm. The event, called Celebration of Cultures, will have as its theme “Different Colors—One People.”

A raffle ticket drawing for prizes will be held.

For more information, contact school principal Jonas Barcinas at 664-5025/6.

### SCS yard sale on May 22

The Saipan Community School is having its yearly yard sale on Saturday, May 22, on Beach Road in Susupe from 8am to 12 noon.

### WSR registration schedule

William S. Reyes Elementary School is announcing its registration schedule for school year 2004-2005. Incoming students must register on June 14-25.

If you need more information, call 664-3971/72.

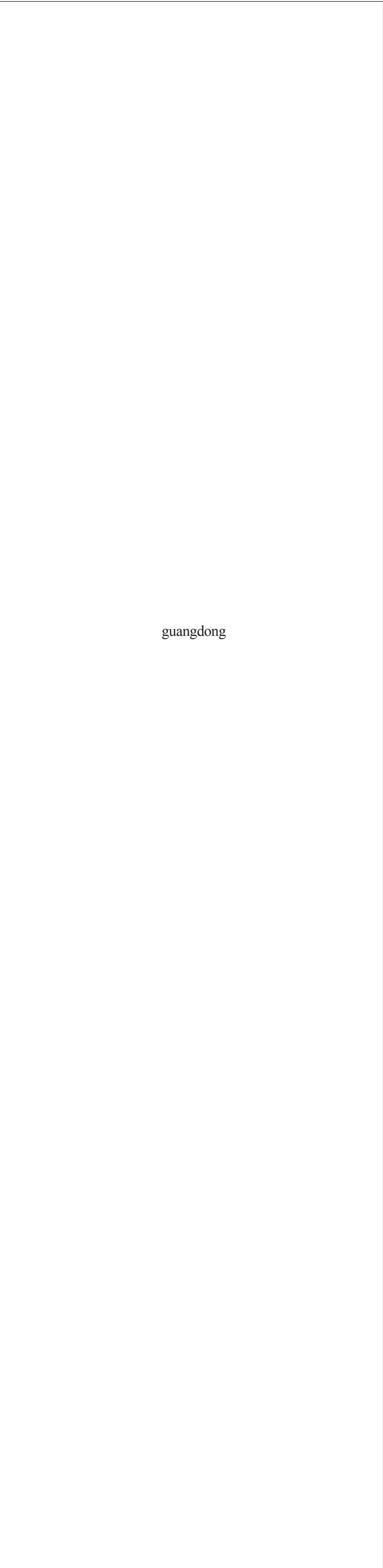
### Outrigger racing series ongoing

The Marianas Interscholastic Sports Association Outrigger Racing Series will continue every Saturday until May 29. The event is open to the public and will be a great opportunity for everyone to share in the culture and competition.

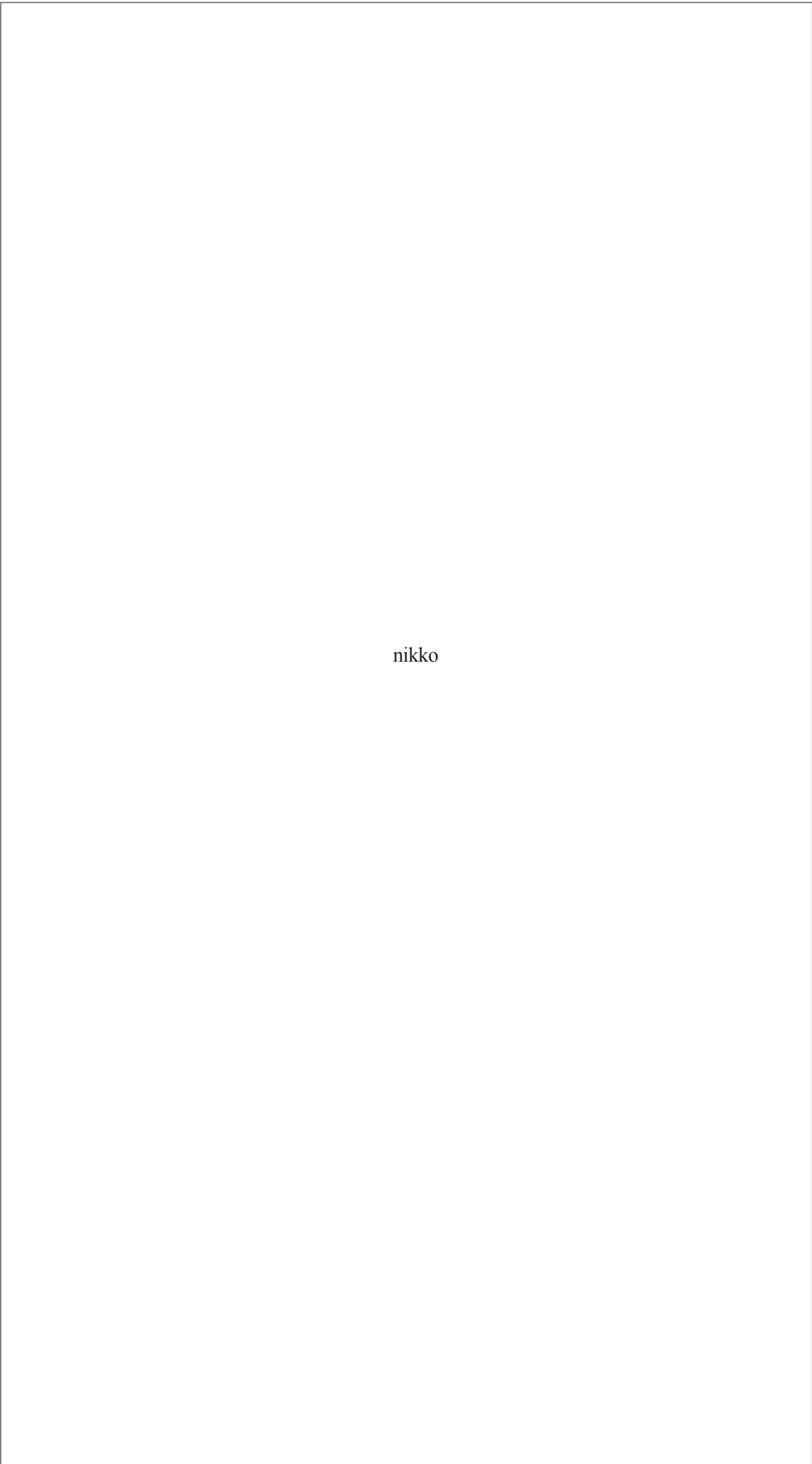
hyundai  
cmyk







guangdong



nikko





Business



MARCY RANGAMAR

Jones poses at the restaurant's wine rack, which features a selection of fine wines to complement the restaurant's menu.

AJ's Restaurant grand opening today

The former Johnny's Bar across the Multi-Purpose Center in Su-supe is now the AJ's Restaurant, a fine dining establishment in a unique beach setting.

AJ's Restaurant will be holding its grand opening today, May 21, at 4pm and is inviting everyone to experience the new fare that the restaurant has to offer, which includes live Maine lobsters and great steaks, all at reasonable prices.

Proprietor Jimmy Jones said the restaurant's interior has been converted into a fine dining setting for those in the



MARCY RANGAMAR

AJ's Restaurant proprietor Jimmy Jones poses behind the renovated bar.

mood for a quite and intimate dinner with friends or loved ones, while the outside setting has been retained for those who would just like to chill out with a bottle of beer while enjoying the evening breeze.

As part of its grand opening activities, the restaurant will be

offering complimentary appetizers and Happy Hour prices all night long.

For more information, visit AJ's Restaurant, located on the beach next to the World Resort Hotel, or call 234-9019. You can call the same number to make reservations.

Mid-Pac: 20 years and still growing

By SHAN SEMAN  
REPORTER

For over 20 years, Mid-Pac Micronesia has established a name for itself by providing automotive parts, heavy equipment, equipment care products, and technical service in the region.

According to Mid-Pac assistant manager Ricky L. Itaas, the company, under its new management, bases its business on its service to customers.

"This is a customer-oriented business," he said. "Customer service is our business and is always our priority. We're here to cater to the needs of our customers with our huge inventory of parts."

Itaas said Mid-Pac is currently the exclusive distributor of various equipment, including Cummins/Onan generators, John Deer equipment, Detroit Diesel engines, Allison transmissions, Kenworth trucks, Stone Construction equipment, Daewoo heavy duty equipment, and Fleetguard filters.

The company also distributes complete auto and car care products including Armor-All, STP, Prolong chemicals, NAPA auto and trucks parts, and Preston coolants.

Itaas said the company continues to grow as more parts and equipment will be featured in the future.

"We have so much to offer at a competitive price. We will bring in more products because the more inventory, the better service we can provide the customers. We try to grow the

business in spite of our ailing economy," he said.

Itaas also stressed the positive partnership the company provides customers.

"We stand behind our products. People still matter the most even after they buy our products. We have a servicing department that supports our sale. If something needs servicing, we have certified and trained technicians to assist them. People can bring in equipment and we will help them find the problem, what is needed to address the problem, and what's best to be done. We go that extra mile for our customers. We won't leave you hanging."

Itaas said the company also markets its products to mom-and-pop stores and gas stations on island.

"We help our other retail outlets," he said. "Yes, we sell our products to them, but we also assist with sponsorships, just like the one we did with the Mobil gas station on Middle Road."

Mid-Pac assisted the Mobil station during their new management grand opening, providing giveaways as part of their commitment and contribution to customers.

Itaas added that Mid-Pac will hold a big tent sale on June 11 and 12, and urges everyone to take advantage of the event, which will feature special deals, dropped prices, and giveaways.

Mid-Pac's business hours are 8-5pm from Mondays to Saturdays. It is located south of Highway Market on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

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cmyk





# SGMA meets with the NMI Water Task Force

At the invitation of the CNMI Water Task Force headed by Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, Richard A. Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association, met with the Water Task Force members and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials to discuss upcoming initiatives affecting SGMA garment factories.

The Water Task Force provided SGMA with its preliminary listing of major water well consumers, many of them listed as Saipan factory operations, with volume statistics, meter characteristics, billing information and plans for surveillance for proper supply, metering

and fee consistency.

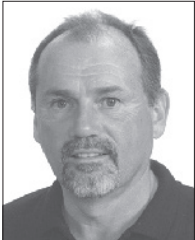
The Water Task Force will meet with the full SGMA membership in about two weeks to discuss where improvements can be made to properly supply and rate all large water consumers on Saipan. These meetings will also be held to discuss water consumption requirements and ways to improve reservoir systems for factory operations and dormitories.

SGMA will provide the Water Task Force with a cross reference of all factories with well systems, and a listing of

subcontracting operations.

SGMA also provided the Water Task Force with its plans to work with the Division of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency to improve the water quality of Saipan's wells through its own initiative to perform environmental audits at all SGMA member factories.

SGMA is comprised of 25 of the 27 licensed factories on Saipan, while the garment industry provides approximately 16,500 jobs and one-third of total CNMI budget income.



Pierce

## Chinese oil investor due in PNG

**PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea** (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—A Chinese company interested in oil investment in Papua New Guinea is due to arrive tomorrow.

Petroleum and Energy Minister Sir Moi Avei told Parliament yesterday during Question Time China that National Petroleum Company (CNPC) would be in the country to negotiate oil deals with the National Government.

Sir Moi said two other major investors, Randhill and a Korean Group, will also be in the country this month to look at the possibility of the northern pipeline.

He was responding to questions by Kundiawa- Gembogl

MP Mathew Siune on oil-related issues. Mr Siune asked how many licenses and exploration permits have been granted in the country.

"Three new players that have been given three new licenses, Scotia, Jita and three gas that will do the exploration for oil and gas in conjunction with the Ramu Nickel," Sir Moi replied.

"The Chinese Petroleum Company that was kicked out in Manila are finally arriving on Thursday, CNPC followed by Randhill and followed by a Korean Group that are coming to look at the possibility of the northern pipeline.

"The only group that is yet to

comply with the licenses is that deals with the Cape Vogel Basin. We had an application from Taiwan with a company called Gold Star and it failed to comply with license applications.

"When we took over the Government the works program was US\$90 million. From last month back, the works program has exceeded about US\$500 million.

"Yes, Chimbu had a licence given to a Canadian Company called Jita and another company to the Sepik Basin to look after Ramu.

"It's comforting to know that the protected works should give us some comfort and in the near future, we should be positively addressing the oil reserves."

## Biz leaders weary of parliament

**PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea** (The National/PIR)—Business leaders in Papua New Guinea this week remained unimpressed, sceptical and wary of political goings on in Parliament.

Industry leaders contacted said the political power games in PNG were affecting the country's credibility and hindering economic growth.

"The business of PNG is political, it is not sustainable economic development," a top executive of a major company said.

A senior company managing director said: "This business about stability, what is it about? You can have stability, but if you have corruption and law and order problems still going on, is that good stability? We are only interested in having (Sir Michael) Somare around so long as Bart Philemon is around. He is the only Treasurer who has been able to say no and actually mean it," he added.

"We are not the only industry that suffers from constant shifting of goal posts. All it does is to repel investment, there's no new expansion, no new job creation, no economic growth," a forestry industry player said.

"All the economic indicators such as inflation, foreign exchange reserves and interest rates are pointing in the right direction. All that is necessary for stability is there. We have to have some sense of security and predictability," said a board chairman.

These were the views of individuals, both expatriates and Papua New Guineans, who have lived in the country for a long time and whose signatures move millions of kina monthly— big time players in other words.

To a man, they were saying that there has been too much political power wrangling and too little time spent on managing the nation.

In the words on one of those I spoke to yesterday: "After 30 years we know who is who around here. We know what they can do and cannot do. We also know what they want. We cannot be fooled."

The business leaders were also unanimous that many economic gains cannot be credited to the actions of government.

"Commodity prices improvement have nothing to do with government action," said the chief executive.

"There is a lot of money in the system because a lot of money is coming into the country with improved prices."

He said the only thing that could be credited to political management was expenditure control and here was where Mr Philemon has been exceptional.

In the forestry sector, despite a lot of lip service and the major industry review in the late 1980s, there has been little by way of overall long-term economic and fiscal framework and policy development, one industry player said.

He said: "We are not positioning ourselves in the global economic market. We are just playing stupid political games while investment, jobs and economic development go begging."

The board chairman said: "You have got the right players, some of them. You have got Bart (Philemon), Moi (Avei), Puka (Temu), Sam (Akoitai) and others.

"You got the economic indicators including interest rates, foreign exchange reserves and inflation right. You just need a bit of stability, security and predictability."

urban  
+red









Nation

Sivits sentenced for role in Iraq abuse

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** (AP)—Spc. Jeremy C. Sivits wept and apologized after receiving the maximum penalty of a year in prison and a bad conduct discharge Wednesday in the first court-martial stemming from abuse of Iraqis at the Abu Ghraib prison.

His testimony will now be used to prosecute other Americans accused of mistreating prisoners—most immediately, three men from his reserve unit who also appeared in court Wednesday.

Sivits pleaded guilty to four counts for taking pictures of naked Iraqi prisoners being humiliated, including some of the photographs that triggered the abuse scandal and sparked international outrage when they were broadcast and published last month.

“I’d like to apologize to the Iraqi people and those detainees,” Sivits said, breaking into tears. “I should have protected those detainees, not taken the photos.”

His hearing marked the start of American efforts to investigate who was responsible for the abuse and punish the guilty, a process expected to stretch to the highest levels of the military.

Within hours of Sivits’ court-martial, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the senior U.S. commander in Iraq, told the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington that abuse of prisoners in Iraq will be investigated thoroughly up the chain of command, “and that includes me.”

Sanchez, who ordered an inquiry into alleged mistreatment last January, said continuing probes may result in more criminal charges in connection with abuses at Abu Ghraib, where Saddam Hussein’s regime tortured and executed thousands of political opponents. Sanchez

Friends insist Sivits is abuse crisis scapegoat

**HYNDMAN, Pa.** (AP)—Army Spc. Jeremy Sivits’ guilty plea Wednesday to charges of mistreating Iraqi prisoners was met with anger and disbelief in his hometown, where friends allege he was accepting blame that truly rests with his superiors.

Yellow ribbons and a poster reading “Jeremy Sivits, our hometown hero” were put up near Sivits’ home in Hyndman, where more than 200

residents held a candlelight vigil in support of the reservist Tuesday night.

Sivits took photos of the abuse and humiliation of inmates at Abu Ghraib prison. He cooperated with Army prosecutors in Baghdad and pleaded guilty to lesser charges than those lodged against some of his colleagues at the prison. Sivits received a maximum one year in prison and a bad conduct discharge.

“I feel he’s been bargained with to plead this way. I feel he was forced to take the brunt of this,” said Jamey Ringler, Sivits’ former baseball coach and best man at his wedding. “He’s intelligent enough to know he’s in a no-win situation so he went ahead and agreed with it.”

Those who know Sivits demanded that President Bush hold the soldier’s superiors accountable in the prison-abuse scandal.

Jr.—appeared in court inside the heavily guarded Green Zone but entered no pleas. The judge, Col. James Pohl, set a new hearing for them June 21.

Sivits cooperated with investigators and gave statements against fellow soldiers in exchange for reduced charges.

Sivits begged the judge to allow him to remain in the Army, which he said had been his life’s goal.

“I have learned huge lessons, sir,” he said. “You can’t let people abuse people like they have done.”



Yellow ribbons and U.S. flags adorn posts on the front porch of the home of the parents of U.S. Army Spc. Jeremy Sivits, one of the soldiers accused in the Iraqi POW abuse scandal, in Hyndman, Pa.

SONIA CAMACHO

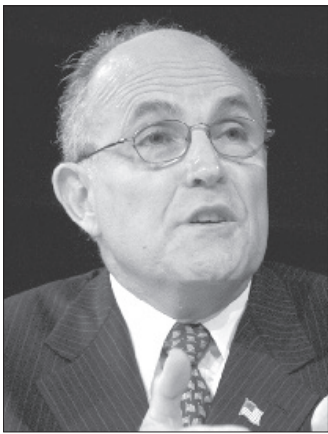
NMC GRAD

# Families heckle Giuliani at 9/11 hearing

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Outraged relatives of World Trade Center victims heckled former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani on Wednesday as their hopes that he would be grilled by the Sept. 11 commission faded in the face of gentle questioning and effusive praise from panel members.

“My son was murdered because of your incompetence!” shouted Sally Regenhard, whose firefighter son died in the trade center. Seated three rows behind Giuliani, she jabbed her finger at the former mayor and waved a sign that read “Fiction” as he gave the city’s emergency response a glowing review.

Giuliani finished his testimony and abruptly left the auditorium minutes later, upsetting family members who said they



Giuliani

received few answers. Monica Gabrielle, who lost her husband, Richard, called it a “lost opportunity.”

“This was not a time for Rudy Giuliani to talk about all the great things he did on 9/11,”

she said. “He can save that for his talking tours. He should have told us what went wrong and what we should do now.”

The acrimonious hearing brought together the mayor, who became a symbol of heroism for his steady response to the attack, and the activist relatives who have become a voice of dissent over his administration’s emergency planning and response.

Their complaints have been supported by a growing mass of critical findings on gaps in command, control and communications among New York’s agencies in charge of emergency response.

The anger directed at Giuliani came on the second and final day of hearings in New York

by the Sept. 11 commission, created by Congress last year to investigate the attacks and advise the country on ways to avoid future attacks. The hearings resume in Washington on June 8-9 and the final report is due July 26.

The commission released two reports that mark the most comprehensive probe to date of New York’s response on Sept 11. The findings detailed a list of failings including poor communication, gulfs in cooperation between police and firefighters and grave deficiencies in the city’s 911 emergency telephone network.

The report led to an aggressive interrogation of Giuliani’s top fire, police and emergency management officials Tuesday, with Republican appointee John F.

## *Families: 9/11 panel is failing at mission*

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Long frustrated by the sudden and unexplained deaths of their loved ones at the World Trade Center in 2001, victims’ families are now furious at the Sept. 11 commission for what they say is a failure to thoroughly investigate the disaster.

“Today was a joke,” widow Beverly Eckert said Wednesday after the commission’s questioning of former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Giuliani’s testimony ended abruptly as relatives of the dead stood and shouted that the federal panel was lobbing “softball questions” and accepting Giuliani’s answers without pressing further.

“I’m glad there was that interruption,” Eckert said outside the hearing, “because that was a very important message, that tough questions aren’t being asked.”

Families that have so far had a lukewarm response to the Sept. 11 commission’s

work over the past year scolded the panel for a “lost opportunity.” They said the commission breezed through questions about firefighters’ malfunctioning radios and the sharing of terror intelligence among federal agencies and the city.

“Maybe we’ll never get the answers to these questions,” said Patricia Casazza, who lost her husband in the attack.

Several relatives of victims also said they were disgusted that the 10 members of the commission, each allowed about five minutes to question witnesses, wasted time to praise and congratulate Giuliani for his leadership. One statement thanking Giuliani should have been enough, the families said.

“We leave frustrated,” said Monica Gabrielle, whose husband died in the south tower. “They made a huge faux pas in letting Rudy Giuliani polish his crown.”

Lehman, a former Navy secretary under President Reagan, calling the failings “a scandal” and “not worthy of the Boy Scouts.”

Ex-fire commissioner Thomas Von Essen later called Lehman’s comments “outrageous” and “despicable.”

Lehman told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the comments were misunderstood and that he was not trying to criticize those who led the Sept. 11 effort.

“I was on the side of the witnesses, against the system,” he said.

The harsh questioning of Giuliani’s former team was a sharp contrast to the universal praise that commission members heaped on the former mayor Wednesday. His positive assessment of such hotly debated topics as the 911 phone system and gaps in fire and police communications went virtually unchallenged.

“New York City, on that terrible day, in a sense was blessed because it had you as leader,” said commission chairman and former New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean. “It had somebody who was a great, great leader to take charge of a terrible, terrible event. You also had, as you’ve told us, some of the best people in the country to call on who worked for you and worked for the city.”

Family members called the Giuliani questioning weak.

“A lot of these questions that the public has may die with this commission,” said Patricia Casazza, whose husband died as the offices of Cantor Fitzgerald filled with smoke.

Giuliani began his testimony Wednesday with a call to focus on the nation’s true enemies and not criticize each other.

“Our enemy is not each other but the terrorists who attacked us, murdered our loved ones and continue to offer a threat to our security, safety and survival,” Giuliani said to applause.

Later, Giuliani was chastised by members of the public. A longtime city gadfly berated him and the commission, yelling, “Three thousand people murdered does not mean leadership!” He and another person were hustled out of the room.

Others in the audience shouted about the failure of Fire Department radios, shouting, “Talk about the radios!”

“You’re simply wasting time at this point,” commission head Thomas Kean told the family members.

“YOU’RE wasting time!” came the angry reply.

Asked afterward about the outbursts, Giuliani said: “I knew that that would happen. ... I attribute it to the stress and the trauma that they’re going through.”

Giuliani began his remarks by describing a September morning that began at breakfast with two friends and quickly turned into unimaginable horror as two hijacked planes slammed into the twin towers, killing 2,749 people and rattling the city’s psyche.

As Giuliani recalled watching a man leap from around the 102nd floor of the north tower, family members began to cry, clearly disturbed by the account.

SJELL



# Senate OKs \$5.6B for chemical attacks

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The discovery of sarin gas in Iraq and the use of anthrax and ricin against Congress spurred the Senate Wednesday to approve \$5.6 billion to help prepare for possible germ or chemical attacks on American soil.

The Senate, on a 99-0 vote, approved “Project BioShield” legislation to pay for research, production and stockpiling of

vaccines and antidotes for bioterror agents. The House already has approved the legislation, and lawmakers on both sides say they hope to soon have it to President Bush for his signature.

Bush commended the Senate for passing the legislation. “BioShield will speed the development of new vaccines and treatments that would help prevent harm to Americans in

a terrorist attack,” the president said in a statement.

Lawmakers are moving quickly on the legislation because America is not prepared for a major bioterror attack, said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn. The sarin gas discovered in a roadside bomb Monday in Iraq, and the ricin and anthrax attacks on the Capitol complex “demonstrated that bioterror is here,”

said Frist, whose office was mailed a letter containing ricin last fall. “It’s on our own soil, it’s hit this nation, hit this Capitol, hit the entire East Coast, and indeed it was deadly.”

The legislation, covering the next 10 years, would provide incentives to the pharmaceutical industry to research and develop bioterrorism countermeasures, accelerate the approval process

for antidotes and, in an emergency, allow the government to distribute certain treatments before the Food and Drug Administration approved them.

“The bill before the Senate guarantees that any company which develops a successful new product for these threats will find a willing buyer in the federal government,” said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. “With that

guarantee, companies will make the investments needed to prepare for any attack.”

Added Tommy Thompson, head of the Health and Human Services Department: “We’re going to be able to push the industry in order to do research in particular areas and then we’re going to be able to provide them with a market after they find the kind of remedies and solutions that we need.”

## Justice probes CIA on prisoner deaths

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The CIA has sent three cases to the Justice Department for possible criminal prosecution against agency personnel accused of involvement in the deaths of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan, a Justice official said Wednesday.

The deaths last year have been linked to CIA officers and contractors.

It had been acknowledged previously that one of the cases had gone to the Justice Department for possible prosecution. In confirming the two additional referrals, the department official spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The attention on prisoner abuse has offered a rare glimpse into the three CIA cases, many details of which remain classified.

In conjunction with the Defense Department, the agency’s

inspector general has been investigating the deaths—two in Iraq and one in Afghanistan.

The earliest case was a June 2003 prisoner death at a U.S. holding facility in Afghanistan’s Kunar province, near the border with Pakistan. On June 23, the military announced the death, which may have involved a CIA contractor.

The CIA inspector general is also looking the role of a CIA officer and agency contractor in the November death of a prisoner at the now-famous Abu Ghraib facility outside Baghdad.

Also that month, Maj. Gen. Abed Hamed Mowhoush, a former commander of Saddam’s air defenses, died after complaining he didn’t feel well during an interrogation in Qaim, Iraq. A CIA officer may have been involved.

**CLEARWATER, Fla.** (AP)—Jordan Hunkin wants to be a Marine so desperately that he skipped his high school graduation this month to get an early start at boot camp. His recruiter had to pull some strings to make it happen: The slight 17-year-old wants to go straight into the infantry, qualify for Special Operations and become a sniper.

And if he is needed in Iraq, bring it on.

“I want to do my part,” said Hunkin, who showed up at the recruiting office with his father on his birthday, the first day he could legally enlist. “I think it’s our responsibility to the rest of the world to maintain order.”

Despite a particularly bloody spring in Iraq for American troops and the fallout from the prisoner abuse scandal, busi-

ness is still good for U.S. military recruiters.

Many recruits are unfazed by the flag-draped caskets coming home from Iraq since the surge of violence began April 1. Hunkin, for one, said he has “heard some stories” about combat over there, but is still ready to go.

The Pentagon said the fighting in Iraq has not affected overall recruiting numbers much one way or the other. Statistics through 2003 show all branches hitting annual targets, with no dramatic spikes. In fiscal year 2003, the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force brought in 184,879 recruits to active duty, exceeding the objective by more than 500.

And despite the bloodshed, soldiers are re-enlisting at rates that exceed retention goals, ac-

cording to the Pentagon.

Recruiters here say patriotic interest in the military has been high since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and they are still tapping into it.

Gunnery Sgt. David McDaniel, chief of Marine recruiting in Pinellas County on Florida’s Gulf Coast, said his office has been so successful that recruits who signed on in April will have to wait until early next year to get a slot at boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., the initial destination for every fledgling Marine in the eastern United States.

And a good many want to fight.

“The infantry program is definitely not one that we have to convince people to do,” said Staff Sgt. Patrick Miller, who found Junkin and has three Marines he recruited now

serving in Iraq. “We almost have to talk more people out of that one because there’s a limited number of openings.”

One of the slots is going to Jeremy Wellenreiter, a high school senior who said he has wanted to be a Marine since the sixth grade. Despite a good score on the military aptitude test that might qualify him for more skilled jobs, he wants infantry and Special Operations.

Wellenreiter said his recruiter explained the risk, explained that people might be shooting at him before long. He said it was a source of much hand-wringing by his parents but not a huge issue with him.

Dying “is always in the back of your mind if you’re thinking about joining the military,” he said.

dial rent

# Mass. Senate votes to repeal marriage law

By JENNIFER PETER  
AP WRITER

**BOSTON (AP)**—The Democrat-controlled state Senate voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to repeal the 1913 law that Republican Gov. Mitt Romney is using to bar out-of-state gay couples from marrying in Massachusetts.

The repeal was approved 28-3 as part of the Senate version of the state budget. For the law to be wiped from the books, the repeal would have to get through the far more conservative House and then survive a certain veto by Romney.

The 81-year-old law bars

nonresidents from marrying in Massachusetts if the union would not be legal in their home state. Because no other state allows gay marriage, Romney has argued that out-of-state couples are prohibited from marrying here.

A day after gay marriage became legal in Massachusetts on Monday, Romney requested copies of all marriage applications filled out by gay couples in Provincetown, Somerville, Springfield and Worcester—four municipalities that openly defied Romney’s order not to marry nonresident gay couples. As of Wednesday afternoon, Romney’s office had received the requested records only from

Provincetown and Springfield.

The governor previously said he would declare any licenses issued to out-of-state gay couples void, and he threatened legal action against any clerks who issued them.

Democratic state Sen. Jarrett Barrios, a gay lawmaker from Cambridge who sponsored the repeal, cited the law’s “shameful origins”—it was enacted as a way to bar the recognition of interracial marriages.

Senate Minority Leader Brian Lees, a Republican, supported the repeal of what he called an “archaic” law, but said Romney was just doing his job.

“The governor is enforcing the

law that is on the books,” Lees said.

Richard Moore, one of three senators opposed to the repeal, said Massachusetts should not provide same-sex marriages for the rest of the country.

“Let the other states take on that responsibility for themselves if that’s what they want to do,” said Moore, a Democrat.

A spokesman for the governor said the Senate vote reaffirms “what has been obvious to us all along.”

“This law is not Gov. Romney’s invention,” said the spokesman, Eric Fehrstrom. “This is the law of the land and the governor cannot pick and choose which laws to enforce.”

# Hundreds evacuated in flooded Ohio towns

Storms in southeastern Ohio caused a creek to overflow its banks and forced hundreds of people from their homes, including some who had to be evacuated by boats and fire truck, officials said.

The National Weather Service reported 1 inch to 2.4 inches fell over 24 hours in the area. There were no reports of injuries.

Many streets in Corning, a town about 55 miles southeast of Columbus in Perry County,

had about 3 feet of water Tuesday night, chief Douglas Gill said.

As about 700 evacuated residents began returning home when the water receded Wednesday, people had to leave their homes downstream along Sunday Creek in the Athens County towns of Glouster and Trimble.

About 50 homes in the Glouster area and 25 in the Trimble area were evacuated, said Jill Harris, director

of the Athens County Emergency Management Agency.

Gov. Bob Taft on Wednesday declared a state of emergency for Perry and Athens counties, clearing the way for the state to help.

State crews were sent to help remove debris or repair roads, place sandbags and clean up, said Rob Glenn, spokesman for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. He said more counties could be added to the disaster declaration.

“We expect this weather pattern to park right over us for the next five to seven days,” Glenn said. “The problem is the water doesn’t have anywhere to go.”

Flooding also was reported in Kansas. The weather service said 5 to 6 inches of rain was common in Jackson County, which includes Kansas City. Emergency crews rescued a number of people from vehicles Tuesday night and Wednesday. **(AP)**



## Trains collide head-on in north Texas

**GUNTER, Texas (AP)**—Two freight trains collided just outside this small north Texas town Wednesday, leaving rail cars in a mangled mess and causing multiple injuries, authorities said.

Grayson County Sheriff’s Sgt. Pam McCurdy said that she didn’t know how many people were injured, but knew some of the injuries were severe. A medical helicopter was dispatched.

Television footage showed emergency crews treating at least three people. At least one of the locomotives burned.

Joe Faust, a spokesman for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp., said both of the trains belonged to the company.

Neither Faust nor McCurdy knew what caused the accident.

McCurdy said one of the trains derailed after the head-on collision. Television footage showed about 20 cars off the tracks.

## Report: Texas elderly care must improve

**EL PASO, Texas (AP)**—Poor training, understaffing and organizational problems afflict Texas’ elderly care program, which is under scrutiny for failing to remove clients from squalid and dangerous living conditions, according to a report released Wednesday.

The preliminary review, which examined 200 El Paso cases and Adult Protective Services policies statewide, found that a third of the case investigations were insufficient and that workers often failed to respond to severe cases by increasing contact with clients. In 44 percent of the cases, no steps were taken to address a client’s mental illness, the review said.

The report says the El Paso office needs more staff, and repeats a previous recommendation that caseworkers be provided with handheld computers that can be used to instantly communicate with supervisors, including sending them photos of unacceptable living conditions.

## Man with shy bladder syndrome files suit

**ATLANTA (AP)**—A man who says he was fired by Caterpillar Inc. because he wasn’t able to urinate for a drug test sued the equipment giant Wednesday, alleging discrimination.

The plaintiff says he suffers from paruresis, more commonly known as shy bladder syndrome, and was physically unable to urinate into a specimen cup, despite having drunk 40 ounces of water and being given three hours to complete the task.

Tom Smith, a 55-year-old assembly line worker, was suspended by Caterpillar a day after the aborted test in November, and dismissed on Dec. 5.

“This is supposed to be a country where losing a job for a disorder like that shouldn’t be a problem,” said Smith, who worked at the company’s Griffin plant more than three years. “It’s just a matter of simple justice.”

Smith contends Caterpillar violated the Americans with Disabilities Act and that companies should offer alternate drug testing methods such as hair or blood tests. He wants his job back and unspecified monetary damages.

carrier

hardt



























# Israeli shells kill at least 10 in Gaza



AP  
A Palestinian man carries a badly wounded child as others rush to help moments after an Israeli missile strike on a demonstration in the Rafah refugee camp, southern Gaza Strip, Wednesday, May 19, 2004.

## Blair, Zapatero condemn Israeli military offensive

**LONDON (AP)**—British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday condemned Israel’s recent military offensive in a Gaza refugee camp —during which at least 24 Palestinians were killed over two days—calling it “unacceptable and wrong.”

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero also criticized Israel’s tactics and urged a new commitment to the U.S.-backed “road map” peace plan.

Israel’s “Operation Rainbow” is aimed at hunting down militants and destroying arms-smuggling tunnels in the Rafah refugee camp.

**UN demands that Israel end demolition of homes**

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—With the United States abstaining, the U.N. Security Council Wednesday demanded that Israel halt the demolition of Palestinian homes and condemned the killing of Palestinian civilians near a Gaza refugee camp.

The decision by the United States, Israel’s closest ally, to allow the adoption of a critical resolution reflected the Bush administration’s displeasure at Israel’s foray into Gaza.

The final vote was 14-0

By **KHALIL HAMRA**  
AP WRITER

**RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)**—Israeli forces fired a missile and a barrage of tank shells to hold back a crowd of Palestinians protesting military operations in Gaza on Wednesday, killing at least 10, including children and teens. Overwhelmed doctors treated some of the dozens of wounded on blood-drenched hospital floors.

White smoke rose into the air as Palestinians carried the wounded—including children with bloodied faces - from the scene. Some were evacuated to the hospital in

donkey carts, witnesses said.

“I could see the tank, first it fired a tank shell, it landed next to an electricity pole,” said Hisham Ashour, 45, who was near the front of the crowd. “We immediately started picking up the wounded who had collapsed to the ground. Many of them were kids.”

The strike, captured in dramatic television footage, provoked anger throughout the Arab world and condemnation from U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and European leaders. British Prime Minister Tony Blair called Israel’s 2-day-old military offensive in the

Rafah refugee camp “unacceptable and wrong.”

President Bush withheld judgment on the attack, urged restraint on both sides and said innocent life must be respected.

“We’ll get clarification from the (Israeli) government,” Bush said. “I’ll continue to speak out about the need for all parties to respect innocent life in the Middle East.”

Israel expressed regret over the deaths Wednesday and said the casualties were a result of warning shots to hold back the crowd after several gunmen were spotted among several thousand marchers.

Israeli Defense Minister

Shaul Mofaz said the growing international condemnation would not deter Israel from pressing ahead with its offensive in the camp to hunt down militants and destroy arms-smuggling tunnels. The massive invasion—the largest in the Gaza Strip in years—came less than a week after Palestinian militants killed 13 soldiers in Gaza.

The deaths brought to 34 the number of Palestinians killed since Israeli forces invaded the camp’s Tel Sultan neighborhood early Tuesday. Palestinians said most of the casualties in “Operation Rainbow” were civilians.

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# Science & Technology

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# Study finds nicotine can aid concentration

By JAMIE TALAN  
NEWSDAY

Smokers who say lighting up helps them concentrate may actually be right, according to new findings on how nicotine affects the brain.

While the work is based on research on animals, scientists at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons say they suspect nicotine blocks some of the human brain’s “background noise” so a person can pay attention to more important information.

David Sulzer, associate professor of neurology and psychiatry and lead author of the study that appears in Nature Neuroscience, said this finding may explain why most people with schizophrenia smoke a lot. Nicotine may be filtering the stimuli that seems to flood the schizophrenic brain and leads to a jumble of thought and behavior. Smoking may help tune out some of this excess information, Sulzer said.

All addicting substances activate a brain region called the nucleus accumbens, a sliver of tissue that when stimulated makes an experience seem pleasurable. (That is why drugs that activate this region make people want more.) Techniques to record brain activity have allowed scientists to see two distinct firing patterns of dopamine neurons that work in this region—a slow wave of dopamine activity and one that pumps the chemical in fast electrical bursts.

The Columbia researchers discovered that nicotine changes the firing pattern of dopamine from a slow state to a fast burst of activity. The fast bursts of dopamine make it easier for animals (and in theory, people) to tell the difference between important stimuli and background noise.

“Nicotine is acting like a filter for the dopamine system,” Sulzer said. “It’s helping people decipher what is salient and what they should ignore.”

Margaret Rice, an associate professor of physiology and neuroscience at NYU School of Medicine in Manhattan, believes that nicotine’s effect on this brain reward system may actually prime the brain to become more sensitive to other drugs of abuse, as well as other stimuli related to their smoking habit. “Nicotine actually amplifies the dopamine signal,” said Rice, who published another study on nicotine in the same journal. She believes that having nicotine on board sets the stage for other stimuli to appear more pleasurable.

“It’s interesting,” said Lorna Role, a Columbia professor and nicotinic receptor expert who was not involved in the research. “When it’s a high frequency signal, it lets the stimulus through, as if it’s saying that this is important.”

# Study finds signs of ‘dark energy’

By EARL LANE  
NEWSDAY

WASHINGTON—Astronomers have found new evidence the expansion of the universe is speeding up, and at a rate consistent with a concept introduced by Albert Einstein nearly a century ago.

A research team used the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s orbiting Chandra X-Ray Observatory to study 26 clusters of galaxies at distances between 1 billion and 10 billion light years from Earth. It found new support for the existence of “dark energy,” a mysterious force that may be pushing the universe apart.

Study leader Steven Allen of

the University of Cambridge told a NASA briefing Tuesday that the dark energy appears to behave much like what Einstein dubbed the “cosmological constant,” a fudge factor he included in his general theory of relativity in 1917 as a sort of antigravity to keep the universe from collapsing under its own weight.

Later, after astronomers found the universe to be expanding, Einstein called the cosmological constant his greatest blunder. But theorists have been taking a new look at it since 1998, when astronomers found evidence of a repulsive counterpart to gravity in studies of distant exploding stars called supernovae. Researchers also have found evidence for

dark energy in close scrutiny of the microwave background radiation left over from the very early universe.

The Chandra study provides another line of evidence. The satellite can detect hot gas in galaxy clusters, allowing scientists to estimate the amount of normal matter and hidden, or dark, matter in a cluster. The distance to the cluster can be derived from that ratio, Allen said, and gives a yardstick for assessing how the universe has been growing over time. The Chandra team was able to show that the universe’s expansion, which had been

slowing, began to speed up about six billion years ago.

While the observed quickening is real, the nature of dark energy is unknown. Theorists also debate whether it could become stronger or weaker. If it were to strengthen, University of Chicago astrophysicist Michael S. Turner said, it could mean the universe eventually will tear itself apart in a violent “big rip.” If it were to weaken, gravity would predominate and cause the cosmos to collapse in a “big crunch.”

But if dark energy density is unchanging or changing slowly—as the available data now suggest—it would mean a more gentle expansion as galaxies move farther and farther apart.

Within about 100 billion years, Turner said, only a few hundred galaxies would be visible from Earth. “It will be a very lonely place,” he said.

But Turner cautioned that dark energy may not be the final answer. It is possible, he said, scientists simply do not understand all there is to know about gravity. It may be, he said, that “the universe is teaching us a lesson about how to go beyond Einstein’s theory.”

## FTC requiring labels on explicit spam

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sexually explicit Internet spam must now carry a warning label. A Federal Trade Commission rule went into effect Wednesday requiring that unsolicited commercial e-mail that contains sexually oriented material include the words “SEXUALLY EXPLICIT” in the subject line.

The rule also bars graphic images from appearing in the opening body of the message. Instead, the recipient must take some action in order to see the objectionable material, either by scrolling down in the e-mail or by clicking on a provided link.

Jonathan Kraden, staff attorney with the FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection, said the label “should help the computers to filter if a computer user decides to set their filtering system up to recognize these two words.”

He added, “It should also help the e-mail recipient filter visually so they can go through

their mail and decide which messages they want to see.”

Industry advocates are critical of the rule, which is part of the federal “can spam” legislation that went into effect in January.

“This is a back door effort to violate people’s first amendment rights, whether well intentioned or not,” said attorney Jonathan L. Katz of Marks & Katz, LLC, in Silver Spring, Md. He is a first amendment lawyer whose clients include members of the adult entertainment industry.

Spammers who violate the rule face possible imprisonment and criminal fines of up to \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for an organization. But tracking down violators can be difficult because spammers often try to escape being directly identified by using forged return addresses or by bouncing their e-mails through unprotected relay computers on the Internet.

MPLA

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MOVERS NOTICE



Life & Style

Sherlock Holmes creator's papers sold

By JANE WARDELL  
AP WRITER

Thousands of personal papers belonging to Sherlock Holmes creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, fetched \$1.7 million at an auction Wednesday, with many items sold to private U.S. collectors.

Christie's Auction House had expected the archive of letters, notes and handwritten manuscripts to raise more than twice that amount—around \$3.6 million. Of the 135 lots on offer, 31 failed to meet their reserve price and remained unsold.

The highest successful bid for an individual lot was \$250,000 for a collection of items including the author's notebooks from his time as a young doctor in Southsea, southern England.

The lot, which was snapped up by a private American buyer, also contained the author's drawing for the first appearance of Sherlock Holmes in the novel "A Study in Scarlet," with the original title of the book, "A Tangled Skein," crossed out. "A Study in Scarlet" was published in 1887.

Over the following 40 years, Conan Doyle published 56 short stories and four novels featuring Holmes and his faithful sidekick,

Dr. Watson, who, like Conan Doyle, was a physician, a writer and veteran of the British army.

There also was plenty of interest at the auction in Conan Doyle's private life. Letters the author wrote to his brother Innes, which included an acknowledgment that Conan Doyle began a relationship with a woman before the death of his ailing first wife, went for \$129,000. The letters were sold to British book dealer Bernard Quaritch Ltd.

Christie's declined to provide details on the unsold lots.

The auction was a great disappointment to scholars who had hoped the papers would be donated to a public institution.

Scholars keen to find out more about Conan Doyle had been frustrated by a family court battle that broke out after the death in 1970 of the author's son Adrian.

As a result, the collection was locked up in a lawyer's office for about 25 years until heirs

of the author's daughter-in-law, Anna Conan Doyle, decided upon the Christie's auction.

Sir Christopher Frayling, head of the Arts Council, which allocates government arts funding, this month called the papers "a vast piece of English heritage" that should be kept together for future scholars. "If this was Jane Austen or Charles Dickens, there would be a national outcry," he told BBC Radio.

The archive also became entwined in a mystery worthy of Conan Doyle's fictional detective: The bizarre death of a leading Holmes scholar.

Lancelyn Green, 50, was found dead in his bed on March 27, garroted with a shoelace tightened by a wooden spoon, and surrounded by stuffed toys.

At an inquest in April, coroner Paul Knapman said suicide was the most likely explanation, but he acknowledged there was no note, that garroting was a painful way to kill oneself, and that it therefore had been a "very unusual death." He said the deceased had been acting paranoid.

Christie's said it had consulted Lancelyn Green as an expert and he provided eight of the photographs that illustrate the sale catalogue.

DPW014

Teen brains no secret to me

By JIM SHEA  
The Hartford Courant

The teenage brain.  
Don't go there.  
If, however, you must go there, call for backup.  
This is my advice.

As any parent can attest, when it is functioning normally, the teenage brain is a short-circuiting nerve center energized by misfiring synapses and hopped-up hormones.

When it is not functioning in this manner, it is sleeping.

Fortunately, it sleeps a lot.  
There is bad news to tell about the teenage brain.

I have just finished reading something called "The Secrets of the Teen Brain," which, despite its title, is not a gray-matter mystery, a who-duh-it.

Rather, it is a scientific study, and a sobering one at that.

The good news is that researchers are learning more and more about what goes on under the baseball cap.

This is also the bad news.  
I say this because researchers now believe that instead of the teenage brain's reaching full maturation at 18 or so, the process may not be complete until around age 25.

As a longtime teen-brain observer, this new information has caused me to re-examine my personal body of work on the teen brain's growth and development.

Until now, I had been of the opinion that the teenage brain progressed through the following seven phases on its way to maturation:

Stage 1 (hair): The first indication that something new is going on upstairs is when hair begins to resemble a moussed nest.

Stage 2 (humiliating parents): At this juncture, anything a parent does - including winning the Nobel Peace Prize - will result in the teen's never being able to show his or her face again.

Stage 3 (Stepford friends): They look alike, they talk alike, they think alike, they move through the halls and malls as a single entity.

Stage 4 (silence of the lambs): All communication stops, save for grunting, whining and, of course, asking for stuff.

Stage 5 (sanctuary): The bedroom becomes their fortress (as well as the place where bath towels go to die).

Stage 6 (horsepower): The driver's license is the most significant event in the teen's life (until the first fender bender).

Stage 7 (college): Just when the teen and its brain seem to be emerging from the coma called high school, exhibiting even rudimentary signs of civility, it leaves for college.

Which brings us to:  
Stage 8 (bath-towel déjà vu): The bearer of the brain graduates from college, gets a job, returns home to live, immediately regresses.

Why?  
Now we know. Because their brains are still not developed enough to grasp the concept that gainfully employed adults who choose to live with their parents are, well, losers.

DPW016







cpa

## Series of losses leaves woman unable to cope

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 21 and having a really hard time right now. My dad left my mom and me about two weeks ago, and I had a miscarriage around the same time.

I told my boyfriend I wanted a break, and now I have feelings for another guy I met about a week ago. He makes me laugh, which I haven't done in weeks. I don't know if I want to get back together with my boyfriend. I do love him—I just don't know if I want to be with him. Can you please help me?



*Dear Abby*

FEELING LOST

**DEAR FEELING LOST:** Sometimes when a person doesn't know what to do, it's time to do nothing. You have been through a lot lately—in a sense, you have experienced three "losses." You do not need a love interest to make demands on you right now. Your mother will need emotional support until she recovers from the breakup of her marriage. You may also need support because of the miscarriage and your father leaving. Your best bet right now is to maintain friendships with everyone and make commitments to no one. You will recover your balance, but for the time being, take a respite from heavy emotions and drama.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 27 and two months' pregnant with my first child. Unfortunately, I have reason to believe my husband, "Anthony," 41, is having an affair. Several times in the past month, I have walked into a room and found him whispering on the phone. Each time he has hung up quickly, and when I asked about it, he said it was "work-related."

When I found a pair of red thong underwear in the laundry that didn't belong to me, he claimed they belonged to his 70-year-old mother who had visited recently.

Anthony also forgot our anniversary.

I am concerned about my baby, and I don't want to be a single mother. Every time I mention my worries about our marriage, Anthony gets angry and threatens to leave. I love him, but is our marriage worth saving?

FRUSTRATED IN FLORIDA

**DEAR FRUSTRATED:** Only you can answer that question. Offer your husband the option of marriage counseling in the hope that he'll be more forthcoming in the presence of a referee. If he refuses to go, then go without him, if only to learn why you would even consider tolerating more of his behavior.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a girl in sixth grade. My parents are divorced. At school, I'm bully target No. 1 and my grades are dropping.

I don't know how to talk to my parents, and I have been begging them to let me leave school. Can you help me?

DESPERATE IN DALLAS

**DEAR DESPERATE:** I'll try. Clip this letter, show it to your parents and tell them you wrote it:

**DEAR PARENTS:** Your daughter is in trouble at school. That is why she begs you not to make her go—and that should have been your first clue. You are overdue for a serious chat with your child. After that, schedule an appointment with her school principal. Most schools have policies for dealing with bullies, but they can't be implemented if the incidents go unreported. If that doesn't put an end to the problem, go to the school board—and possibly a lawyer. The situation will not improve unless you are prepared to act on your child's behalf, so don't put it off.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)*

## 'Bachelor' quarterback drafts Jessica

By FRAZIER MOORE  
AP TELEVISION WRITER

**NEW YORK (AP)—**Jessica caught the heart of NFL quarterback Jesse Palmer, and Tara fumbled, on Wednesday's finale of "The Bachelor." Earlier, an over-anxious Tara tossed her cookies.

Palmer, backup quarterback for the New York Giants, had begun the ABC dating series with his pick of 25 eligible mates. Then, week by week, he narrowed the field to two blond finalists: Tara, a 23-year-old general contractor from Oklahoma and California law student Jessica B., 22.

"This whole thing to me is like a dream," Jesse told Jessica at the moment of truth, "and tomorrow morning I'm gonna wake up from that dream into the real world. But I don't want to wake up tomorrow morning if I can't wake up with you."

Jesse's "gut instinct" was telling him they were meant to spend their lives together, he said, but added, "I am not ready to propose to you tonight. I think that we need more time to grow and learn about each other."

"That's all I want," she said.

Jesse produced a one-way plane ticket to New York, inviting her "to chase all your dreams, but do it with me."

Then Tara was fetched from her limousine, where she had retreated after throwing up in a hedge.



Jesse Palmer, background, and Jessica B., name given, pose during the season finale of ABC's "The Bachelor," which aired Wednesday, May 19, 2004.

"I don't want you to say anything," Tara tearfully told Jesse. "You would make me happier than any other person in this entire world, if I am the girl standing here at the very end."

"Tara," replied Jesse, "I've fall-

en in love with someone else."

The episode began with Jesse taking each woman home to meet his parents, then to Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive to shop for an engagement ring.

"Today is very bittersweet," Jes-

## Leno asks if Laura Bush is tough

**BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—**Jay Leno pressed Laura Bush on his show Wednesday: Who would win if she duked it out with Teresa Heinz Kerry, the wife of Democratic rival John Kerry?

"Very funny," the first lady said with a grin.

Visiting NBC's "The Tonight Show" for the second time since her husband George W. Bush took over the White House, the first lady confided that she watches baseball games to relax, used to feel intimidated by her mother-in-law and now lifts weights a few days a week with a trainer.

"I'm getting quite buff," she said, gently flexing a bicep.

Taking a break from the campaign trail, the first lady stayed away from issues she



Bush

mentioned at a political rally in Las Vegas Tuesday—support for her husband's tax cuts and crediting the administration for ousting Saddam Hussein.

Leno noted that President Bush has said he doesn't read newspapers, preferring to get information from his staff. His wife offered a slightly amended version.

"He really does read the newspaper," she said, but stipulated that he does not read stories by the reporters that follow him.

Why?

"Because he says he doesn't want to be mad at them the next day," she said. "He was there at the event, so he doesn't need to read their coverage of it."

Leno said the president's mother, former first lady Bar-

bara Bush, once gave him a firm handshake and warned him, "Don't tell any more jokes about my son."

"She was pretty intimidating," the first lady agreed, recalling some of her early days around the Bush family. "She still can be."

And she hinted the president might be a little thin-skinned. She remembered that when he was running for Congress in Texas, he once ran the car into the wall of the garage after she criticized one of his speeches.

So, Leno asked, did the first lady hit the slots or look in on a Chippendales show while in Las Vegas on Tuesday?

"Jay, what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas," she deadpanned.

And what about her last argument with the president?

"What happens in the White House stays in the White House," she said.

## Cosby to appear on Philly schools' TV

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)—**Bill Cosby has a new TV gig, though it's unlikely to be a ratings winner. The comedian will appear on several shows and spots on the Philadelphia School District's local-access station and serve as a volunteer creative consultant.

The programming, including some student-produced segments, will include messages

on homework, SAT preparation and vignettes about students and their communities.

The creator of "The Cosby Show" said Wednesday that the programming will reinforce lesson plans and give parents the opportunity to talk with their children about education.

"This can become a friend to the kid who finds that he or she

is a bit shy or a bit slow in the classroom," he said. "The student can turn to that station to get help, even the student who may not know why he or she needs to be studying."

The station also will show reruns of Cosby's "Picture Pages," a program for preschoolers that originally aired in the late 1970s and '80s.

sica told the camera. "It's really, really hard for me to have to sit down and think that he is sharing the same moment with Tara."

She needn't have worried. But as is typical with this kind of show, Jesse claimed to be torn until the last minute.

"I don't have the answer right now," he had told Jessica the night before. "It's gonna come to me."

"I don't know how I feel about that," she replied.

Then, shortly before the final "rose ceremony," he announced to the camera, "It hit me like a ton of bricks: I know what I'm feeling. I know what my heart and my head are telling me."

In an interview before the series' April 7 premiere, Palmer, 25, said he was looking for an honest, self-assured woman who was comfortable with herself. The show was taped in Los Angeles last fall, but Palmer had been mum on whom he chose, referring to her only as "the missus."

Trying to determine who was genuinely interested in him, and who might have seen only dollar signs (Palmer made \$389,000 in 2003 in his backup role) was one of the hard parts of choosing Ms. Right, he said.

"I think I'm more confused about women in general after doing this show than I was before I got on," he said at the time.

The series has done well for ratings-strapped ABC, drawing 12.5 million viewers last week. During this, its fifth season, it has ranked 21st in households.

## Derek speaks out against horsemeat

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—**Bo Derek is lending her fame to Illinois lawmakers working to keep horses from being slaughtered for human consumption. The actress, best known for the 1979 movie "10," says horses shouldn't be killed for food in the United States since Americans don't eat horse meat.

Nearly 50,000 horses were slaughtered last year in the United States. The meat was then exported to Europe and Asia to be eaten, according to the National Horse Protection Coalition, an organization for which Derek serves as a spokeswoman.

"I'm not going to judge another culture and what they choose to eat, but I don't see why they have to eat American horses," Derek said Tuesday while standing in front of an aging horse named Lucky who was saved from a slaughtering pen nearly 20 years ago.

The Illinois legislation Derek supports is meant to keep a DeKalb horse slaughtering plant from reopening. Cavel International Inc. was destroyed in a fire two years ago, but it has been rebuilt and is scheduled to reopen this month.

Derek, 47, criticized the "inhumane" way horses are shipped to slaughterhouses.







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# Pastimes

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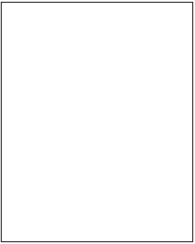












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